



# SERMON NOTES

## BETTER than EVER

Week 1 (January 3):  
“Becoming Better  
Through Crisis”  
*Proverbs 25:28*

### I. The Problem of Pain

- A. This series explores the question “how can we be \_\_\_\_\_ than ever as a result of what we've all just experienced?”
- B. It is human nature to return to \_\_\_\_\_ habits once the difficult times are over.
- C. The question we need to answer is “What should I \_\_\_\_\_ doing that I should have been doing all along?”

### II. Better Than Ever

- A. There are two \_\_\_\_\_ realities we should be aware of:
- B. I want is better than I owe.
- C. A financial hole may be due in part to a lack of self-control
- D. To be better than ever financially, some of us may need to \_\_\_\_\_ more, spend less, and get out/stay out of debt.
- E. To be better than ever relationally, some of us need to address the \_\_\_\_\_ in our relationships that have been highlighted by this season.
- F. If this season has rocked your world, worldview, or faith, pay \_\_\_\_\_ to the tension.

### III. Moving Forward

- A. Decide that we are going to be better than ever and \_\_\_\_\_ the area where that needs to happen.
- B. Create a physical \_\_\_\_\_ of this season and what you want to carry forward from it.

***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

For many of us, there's something we wish we'd been doing all along to prepare for what is happening now. Whatever lessons we're learning, now is the time to start putting them into practice.

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### Monday: Psalm 23

The psalmist reminds us that God walks with us through the difficult times in life. Where have you felt the most pressure during this season? Financially? Relationally? Spiritually? Something else?

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### Tuesday: Luke 14:28, Proverbs 16:3, Proverbs 15:22

Today's scripture passages talk about the importance of planning. Is there anything you should have been doing that would have better prepared you for what you are currently experiencing?

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### Wednesday: Proverbs 25:28

The writer of Proverbs reminds us that a lack of self-control in any area of life, ultimately leads to a loss of control. What stands out to you? Are any of the challenges you're currently facing due to the principle highlighted in this verse?

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### Thursday: James 1:2-4

In addition to your faith being exercised and strengthened, what other positive outcomes might result from your current trial(s)?

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### Friday: Ephesians 4:22-24

What area of your life would you like to improve in 2021? What can you do to become more like Christ in that area? Create a physical reminder so you don't forget the commitment you have made.

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## MOVING FORWARD

"At first I am overwhelmed, and all my little happinesses look like broken toys. Then, slowly and reluctantly, bit by bit, I try to bring myself into the frame of mind that I should be in at all times. I remind myself that all these toys were never meant to possess my heart, that my true good is in another world and my only real treasure is Christ... But the moment the threat is withdrawn, my whole nature leaps back to the toys." —

**C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain**

God, help me to not leap back to the toys. Help me remember what I'm learning through this season and carry it forward to the next.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) better, B) bad, C) begin. IIA) financial, B) save, C) cracks, IID) attention. IIIA) address, B) reminder.*