



Shofar Christian Church

# (THE YEAR OF) THE GOOD OR THE BEST?

Manus Altmann



*“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*  
*(Isaiah 43:18–19, ESV)*



a) Aiming for restoration, not just survival





*For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I*



*will hear you. You will seek me and find me,  
when you seek me with all your heart. I will  
be found by you, declares the Lord, and I  
will restore your fortunes and gather you  
from all the nations and all the places  
where I have driven you, declares the Lord,  
and I will bring you back to the place from  
which I sent you into exile.”*

*(Jeremiah 29:10–14, ESV)*





b) Aiming for relationship instead of just service



*For “As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said,*





*“Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.” But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.””*

*(Luke 10:38–42, NLT)*





c) Aiming for Glory instead of submitting  
to fear (of suffering)



*“Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.”*

*(2 Timothy 2:3–5, ESV)*





*“But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.”*

*(1 Peter 4:13–14, ESV)*



d) Investing the good for the best





*““Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life*



*in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone  
who wants to serve me must follow me,  
because my servants must be where I am.  
And the Father will honour anyone who  
serves me.”*

*(John 12:23–26, NLT)*





*“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ”*

*(Philippians 3:8, ESV)*



e) Aiming not just for this year but for  
eternity





*“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work*



*each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire."*

*1 Corinthians 3:11–15, ESV*





*For everyone who has been born of God  
overcomes the world. And this is the victory  
that has overcome the world—our faith.”  
(1 John 5:4, ESV)*







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# THE YEAR OF THE BEST!

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