Our scripture comes from Psalm 65:11. While you’re finding that, “An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.”

**Psalm 65:11 You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with abundance.**

A Chinese gentleman lived on the border of China and Nepal. There were skirmishes and fights between the two. This man had a beautiful horse. One day, she leaped the fence, raced down the road, crossed the border, and was captured by the enemy. His friends came to comfort him. “That’s bad news,” they said sadly. “What makes you think it’s bad news?” asked the Chinese gentleman. “Maybe it’s good news.” A few days later the mare came running back, bringing with her a beautiful stallion. His friends crowded around. “That’s good news!” they said. “What makes you think it’s good news?” he asked. “Maybe it is bad news.” Later, his son, while trying to break the stallion, was thrown off and broke his leg. “That’s bad news,” said his friends. “What makes you think it’s bad news?” asked the Chinese gentleman. “Maybe it’s good news.” A week later, war broke out and a Chinese general came through, drafting all the young men, except for the young man who couldn’t go because his leg was broken. The man said to his friends, “You see, the things you thought were bad turned out good; and the things you thought were good turned out bad.” James 1:6 says But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

2019 is upon us and 2018 is close to the end. Like the Chinese man in this story, we can’t know, given our short vision, how things we judge to be good or bad will turn out. We’re confident that Romans 8:28 says And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. We’re confident that the Holy Spirit is interceding on our behalf with perfect prayer, knowing exactly what to ask of God even when we don’t know.

Our scripture says **You crown the year with Your goodness.** God crowns the year with His goodness. No matter our situation. No matter what comes. God is crowning the year, He has already crowned 2019, with His goodness. We’ll be given challenges. It’s in overcoming those challenges that we’ll have our testimony. God reminds us, through challenges, that we must depend on Him and lean not to our own understanding.

Looking back, we all can recall prayers, pleas we made to God that were not answered. We made a plea for a certain spouse or job or to win the lottery… whatever it was, we cried out. A few years later, we were thanking God for the fact that He didn’t grant our plea. God crowns our year with His goodness and that goodness involves Him deciding what we can handle, when we should get it, and who will bring it into our lives!

In 2019, let’s have a Thy Will Be Done attitude. Let’s decide that God will crown our year with His goodness. Let’s look into the year with that belief instead of taking a wait and see attitude. Remember our Savior in the garden in Matthew 26:42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.” Knowing the spiritual darkness that was coming, the separation from His Father, the One He had never been separated from, He said – Your Will be done!

There are times that we must pass through the unpleasant, the scary, the undesirable, to do God’s will. God’s Will, God’s Purpose, God’s pathway for each of us is that we be transformed into the Spiritual likeness of His son. When we come to the place that we are following His path we know – what does the second part of the verse say? - **And Your paths drip with abundance.** What does this mean? When we are in right relationship with God, pursuing His Will for our lives, forsaking the comfort and safety of what we desire, the path will literally drip with abundance. Our mind leaps to money or things when we hear abundance, but that is not the promise.

The idea here is that our Spiritual pathway becomes fertile for God to bless. When we walk with God, we grow, we become the soil that the seed can take root in and bear fruit. We become different. Our focus becomes different. We become kinder, more compassionate, loving, and generous to others. We no longer focus on self, but trust God to qualify us and change us. The closer we walk, the more abundant the change.

In 2019, trust that God has already crowned your year with His goodness and that, as you draw closer to Him, your path will begin to drip and be fertile with His blessings. Opportunities will present for us to serve and grow… grab them. Windows will open for us to witness… jump through them. Doors will close behind us… say a hearty goodbye to them… they weren’t good for us anyway. Trust that God is crowning 2019 with goodness for you, for this church, and for His Kingdom. When we truly believe and act on that belief, we will witness a path dripping with an abundance of Spiritual blessing, fertile and producing fruit. Until we truly believe, we will be as a wave, tossed on the sea. Which will you choose to be in 2019?