

April 3, 2016  
*Our New Beginning*  
Doug Joseph



Our **perspective** changes.

Our **motives** change.

Our **influence** changes.

## OUR NEW BEGINNING

In this week's sermon, Doug talked about how our perspective (our outlook on life) changed when we were saved. Is your perspective pretty much the same as when you were saved or has it continued to change or evolve? In what ways has your perspective changed? Share some examples with your group.

Doug also talked about salvation changing our motives or why we do what we do. How have you seen this in your Christian walk? What examples can you share of "wrong" motives you may have had prior to salvation? How are your motives different now? Are you checking your motives from time to time or do you feel like you are running on automatic now?

We know from Scripture that we are not saved by works. So, why is it important for us to love the unlovely & to do for others? Read James 2:14-26. What does this Scripture mean to you? Read Col. 3:23-24.

Read 1 Cor. 3:1-4 & 10-15. What does Paul say here happens to our works? What rewards does Paul say we will receive? What works should we strive for based on these scriptures? How do you see that in practical terms today? How are others tied to you in verse 10? Do you think this was God's intention? Why? In what areas do you see a need to add to your works? In what areas do you see a need to pare down or redirect your works? Why? Read Col. 3:2. How does this change your priority list?

Do you think what we "do" changes our "area of influence"? How? How does what we "do" reflect our beliefs? Can you think of an example where motives have been reflected in what someone did? How did this influence you to action or influence you in a negative

way?

The Scriptures talk about how important our words are. Read Matt. 12:34-37 & Prov. 18:21. What do our words tell others about us? What do our words say about the Lord?

In this time of political campaigns the voters are assessing what candidates have done & what they are saying. Sometimes, what we do is more telling than what we say. Read James 1:23-27. How can we keep ourselves pure in motives, actions & words?

Doug talked about the importance of Christians loving others sacrificially and selflessly with pure motives because another's eternity may be on the line. How do you think the church corporately can improve in this area? How can we individually improve in this area?