

**Ghosts of Christmas**  
**“Dealing with Labels”**  
**- select passages -**  
**December 3, 2017 / Pastor Shawn**

**Marley’s Message to Scrooge:**

Change \_\_\_\_\_ **today or be** chained \_\_\_\_\_ **for eternity.**

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23  
*(see also: John 8:34; Galatians 3:21-22)*

◆ **Hamartia (hä-mär-tē’-ä):** miss the mark; falling short; violating God’s law

**What’s true about you** today \_\_\_\_\_ **doesn’t have to be true about you** later \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>21</sup> The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. Proverbs 18:21 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (HCSB)

**If you’ve embraced a negative label that paralyzes you, you can** name \_\_\_\_\_ **it something different.**

<sup>16</sup> . . . Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. <sup>17</sup> And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the mid-wife said to her, "Don't despair, for you have another son." <sup>18</sup> As Rachel breathed her last — for she was dying — she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin. Genesis 35:16b-18

**YOU DON'T GET TO CHOOSE** WHAT \_\_\_\_\_ **COMES INTO YOUR LIFE.**  
**YOU DO GET TO CHOOSE** WHAT YOU \_\_\_\_\_ **CALL IT** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What was your “A-Ha” from Sunday’s message? Why did this stand out to you?
2. What is one of your fondest Christmas memories?
3. What are some positive and negative labels you've been given? How have each affected you?
4. What difficulty have you experienced that can become a strength for you?
5. How are you labeling your kids, coworkers, family, and friends? Do you need to rename anyone like Jacob did?
6. Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17, Psalm 71:20, Proverbs 14:26, James 4:10, 1 John 1:9, John 15:5. What do these verses say about God? From these verses, which truth do you need most right now? Why?
7. How may your Group pray for you and encourage you this holiday season? Be open, honest, and vulnerable.