



PHILIPPIANS THE SECRET TO JOY

“How to Win the Ultimate Prize”

Philippians 3:12-16

June 12, 2011 PM Service

1. Requires a proper Awareness Vs 12a

2. Requires a Maximum Effort Vs 12b

3. Requires a Focused Concentration Vs 13

4. Requires a Proper Motivation Vs 14

5. Requires a Proper Recognition Vs 15

6. Requires a Proper Conformity Vs 16

Our Response:

1. Do you have that personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Great News! – you can! It’s as simple as ABC. **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord. Is there a daily dissatisfaction of where you are in your walk? Is there a decreasing frequency of sin in your life? Is there an increasing love and desire for holiness?
2. Have you asked Christ into you heart, but never made it public? Have you been baptized – identified with Christ & His church through Baptism? If not, you can make that decision today & be obedient & follow through & become a part of the Bethsalem Family.
3. Do you need a church home – a proper foundation – without one a Christian is an orphan. Don’t just attend – step over the line today and join this family! We need you and you need us.
4. Are you putting forth maximum effort toward growing? Have you let up and are you simply coasting? Are you pressing on, pursuing it with relentlessness? Do you want become more like Christ?
5. Are you aware that you have not arrived yet? Are you focused on the goal? Are you single in focus? Are you living in the past or allowing it to control you? Are you straining, reaching forward towards the goal of what lies ahead in front of you?
6. Are you daily pressing on for the prize? Are you eyes fixed on that finish line? Do spend more time pursuing other things than the call of God upon your life? Do truly want to finish well?
7. Are you running together with the body of Christ or by yourself?
8. Are you consistently, day after day walking with God. Growing in Him and pursuing intimacy with Him? Do you have a longing to be with God’s people and his house worshipping Him?

PHILIPPIANS: The Secret to Joy

“How To Win the Ultimate Prize”

Philippians 3:12-16

April 4, 2004 AM Service

Don't you just love to win, anyone in here just love to lose? Of course not, losing stinks, it hurts and is disappointing, but winning oh the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

Some of us here today are living in defeat, we are not winning in our spiritual lives but instead are defeated, or some of us are on cruise control and really don't care if win or lose, we are just floating through. But we are missing God's best for our lives and that which brings this incredible joy we keep talking about. It is the pursuit of the prize, knowing Christ Jesus our Lord and following hard after His plan for our lives. That is joy and that is the adventure. How do we win then this ultimate prize? That is what it is, knowing Christ intimately. There is no prize greater!!

1. Requires a proper awareness Vs 12a

“I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection!...” NLT

We must be aware that there is always a need for us to improve our spiritual condition. We have not arrived yet.

There is a dissatisfaction with one's present spiritual condition.

Paul was content, but not satisfied.

Some of us are self-satisfied, I mean I'm not that bad, I don't sin that much and in fact when I compare myself to others, I am doing pretty good.

That is not what Paul is saying here, it is about himself compared to that of Christ Jesus. When we measure it that way, we all fall short! Only those who are aware of where they are in their walk and not content to stay where they are, are the only ones who will truly make progress in their Christian lives.

QUESTIONS to ASK:

- Is there a daily dissatisfaction of where you are in your walk?
- Is there a decreasing frequency of sin in your life?
- Is there an increasing love and desire for holiness?

2. Requires a maximum effort Vs 12b

“...But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.” NLT

We pick up here again this idea of working out our salvation. If we are going to win that prize, we have to put forth effort.

Just as in the athletics, if we are going to be the best, we have to give it our all. It requires a huge amount of effort, blood, sweat & tears.

Here he states the goal of this effort, to be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. “Conformed to the image of His Son.”

Romans 8:29

We must press on, even when we might want to quit!

In the Greek press on meant to run swiftly in order to catch some person or thing. Also in hunting, describing the pursuit of the game, stalking it with relentlessness

ILLUS: Me Running sprints and marathons

We need to be reminded, life is not a sprint but a marathon!

Our natural tendency as humans is to let up, but we must no!

QUESTIONS to ASK:

- Are you putting forth maximum effort toward growing?
- Have you let up and are you simply coasting?
- Are you pressing on, pursuing it with relentlessness?
- Do you want become more like Christ?

3. Requires a focused concentration Vs 13

“No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward (straining) to what lies ahead,” NLT

The key here is **focus**, focused not on the crowd or on their feet or on

the runner next to them, or behind them but focused on one thing,
THE FINISH LINE!

It is an intensity, passionate concentration and focus on what it is
Christ has called us to do. Without, we will only flounder around like
a fish out of water. We must have that focus.

A. Realize you have not arrived yourself yet as Paul did

Reiterates again, I have not gotten there yet, I am not yet all that
Christ wants me to be, but I'll tell you this much, I may not do
some things, and leave out others, but one thing I will single
minded about! He was focused, had single mind

B. Forget the past, learn from it but don't live in it.

“It is not that we don't remember the past, it is that we no longer
allow the past to affect the present or influence your future.”

It not bad things, it can be good things living in the good 'ole days
or in past spiritual victories, they are over.

We cannot change the past, but we can change the meaning of the
past. Our understanding of them changes in view of Christ.

C. Reach forward (look forward) to what is ahead

Straining, stretching every muscle to the very limit

When they stretch themselves out at the finish line, that it what
Paul is talking about here. Looking towards what is to come. We
live in the present while learning from the past living for the
future.

QUESTIONS to ASK:

- Are you aware that you have not arrived yet?
- Are you focused on the goal? Are you single in focus?
- Are you living in the past or allowing it to control you?
- Are you straining, reaching forward towards the goal of what
lies ahead in front of you?

4. Requires a proper motivation Vs 14

“I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which
God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.” NLT

There must be a determination and a right motivation.

Here is that same word press on, a relentless pursuit of something, what is it? What is that prize and reward?

We will receive it in heaven, we will be with Christ and we will finally have that perfection, we will become like Him! What we have been striving for and longing for will become reality. Please notice, the goal is not His love, we already have that it is Christ likeness. We will also receive those rewards for how we lived our lives.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:7-8 NASB

QUESTIONS to ASK:

- Are you daily pressing on for the prize? Are your eyes fixed on that finish line?
- Do spend more time pursuing other things than the call of God upon your life?
- Do truly want to finish well?

5. Requires a proper recognition Vs 15

“I hope all of you who are mature Christians will agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you” NLT

We are not in the race alone, we are in it together the bride of Christ, the church of the living God. We need to recognize we're in it together. In order for us individually and corporately to reach that goal, that prize we must be of the same mind. We need to agree and on those things we disagree on, we peacefully and lovingly agree to disagree but we do not allow it to hinder our fellowship and our focus. God will show us where we are wrong or how to walk differently if we will yield ourselves to him.

QUESTIONS to ASK:

Are you running together with the body of Christ or by yourself?

6. Requires a proper conformity Vs 16

“however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.” NASB

A final reminder, and perhaps one of the most important and that is there must be a consistency. We must continually with God’s strength working us living up to that standard that He has set before us, Christ likeness.

The idea from the Greek, keep living, means to line up or to follow in line. We need to run in the lane that God has put us in and do so with a dogged determination and consistency. That is what is missing in most our lives, consistency in our daily walk with the Lord.

QUESTIONS to ASK:

- Are you consistently, day after day walking with God. Growing in Him and pursuing intimacy with Him?
- Do you have a longing to be with God’s people and his house worshiping Him?

OUR RESPONSE:

1. Is there a daily dissatisfaction of where you are in your walk? Is there a decreasing frequency of sin in your life? Is there an increasing love and desire for holiness?
2. Are you putting forth maximum effort toward growing? Have you let up and are you simply coasting? Are you pressing on, pursuing it with relentlessness? Do you want become more like Christ?
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