



PROVERBS 16:1-9

Community Group Study Guide Week of October 6, 2019

A paradox of the Christian faith is that God is sovereign over everything that happens in creation, yet man is still responsible for his actions. When taking this into account, some Christians are liable to over-spiritualize life, to “let go and let God,” to sit back and wait for God to meet daily needs and only act when powerfully led. On the other end of the spectrum, some Christians are stoic and legalistic; they think that fruitfulness and perseverance in this walk is solely a result of one’s proactive religiosity and hard work. The tension between God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility is not one that we have the knowledge to iron out in this life, but one that must be embraced. Christians shall not linger on either the hyper-spiritualized or hyper-legalistic poles, but should make plans, do their best to carry them out and know that the outcome is up to God.

God wants us to set ambitious, lion-like goals in our lives. We are not to pursue our own recognition or praise, but to pursue the glory of God and the adoration of His name among the nations. It is in the the pursuit of His glory that we find true peace and joy. If this is the case, then why do so many Christians lack the perseverance to walk faithfully all of their days and why does there seem to be such little zeal for carrying out God’s work in the church? Scripture tells us that laziness (Prov. 26:13-16), lack of vision (Job 6:11), and fear (Psalm 3) are identified as the things that prevent Christians from setting and pursuing goals. In order to limit the power of these negative influences, Christians must keep the source of their righteousness at the forefront of their minds. In reflecting on where their righteousness comes from, how they receive it and what it means for their identity for all of eternity, Christians have a source of boldness that the world cannot take away that powers them to pursue great visions.

The boldness that Christians have shall make them extremely ambitious, but while setting and pursuing their goals they shall have lamblike humility. Christ is the Good Shepherd and all Christians are his sheep. God is the master who gifts his children with talents, but he expects them to use them faithfully. Christians are to prayerfully make decisions and efficiently make use of the time that God gives them in this life to spread the glory of His name. All goals in life must be subject to the goal of walking faithfully with God.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand that the righteousness that we receive from Christ is what gives us boldness to pursue great God-glorifying goals in life.

Heart

To trust that God will continue to be faithful to us when we are pursuing faithfulness in all that we plan and do in life.

Hands

To be good stewards of the tasks and resources that God has gifted to us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership:

The next Members Meeting is October 20 from 1-3pm.

Mosaic JP

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday contact Andy Hoot at andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Proverbs 16:1-9

1. If God is sovereign over everything that happens in creation, should Christians set goals?
2. What are some of the reasons why Christians often do not set goals?
3. How does the knowledge of receiving righteousness through faith in Christ give a Christian lion-like boldness to set and pursue ambitious goals? How does it give a Christian lamb-like humility while setting and pursuing ambitious goals?
4. What should be the motive behind the goals that Christians set? Should a Christian pursue fruitfulness over faithfulness?
5. Read James 4:13-17. What does this text teach us about our time here on earth? Does this text change your approach to how you plan to use your time in Boston/Brookline? What are some ways that you can redeem your goals and the way you use your time in the city?
6. Pastor Jan mentioned a study that found that subjects who told friends about their goals and updated them on their progress on a weekly basis performed better than those who did not share goals with friends and/or update their friends on their progress. Do you inform friends of the goals that you intend to pursue? Do you update them on your status while pursuing them? How are you actively helping other to achieve their goals? How can members of our CG help each other identify and pursue goals?
7. Pastor Jan suggested that in order to accomplish our lion-lamb like goals we should follow 10 practical, Scripture-based tips. Which of these sticks out to you the most? How do you plan to incorporate one of these in the coming week? How has incorporating one of these in the past helped you accomplish a goal?
 1. start with prayer
 2. check motivations
 3. categorize goals
 4. ASAP, be as *specific as possible
 5. write goals down
 6. find accountability
 7. celebrate
 8. play the long game
 9. follow Jesus, the ultimate goal setter
 10. depend on God's Spirit.