

Sermon Title: The Goal

Sermon Series: Philippians – Unbreakable Joy

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-16

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



What is the goal of your life?

Should God's goal be my goal?

1. The _____ – I Press Forward

Philippians 3:12-14a ESV

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on ...

Philippians 3:6 ESV

6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

2 Peter 1:3-5, 10 ESV

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge...

10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

This life we have with Jesus is our _____ focus. It changes us, how we live, and what we strive for.

Philippians 3:12-13a ESV

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own...

2. The _____ – Christ Has Made Me His Own

Philippians 3:12b ESV

...because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

I am not completely like Jesus, but Jesus completely has me.

1 John 4:19 ESV

19 We love because he first loved us.

We are grabbed by Jesus; therefore we grab onto life with Jesus.

3. The _____ – Be Like Jesus

Philippians 3:13b-14 ESV

...But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

My past doesn't _____ me.

Philippians 3:4-7 ESV

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

Philippians 3:14 ESV

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

"I could feel this meet was going to be something special... but MAN. Weeks like these are some of the hardest in a track athletes life. The mental strain of preparing for the rounds in order to solidify your spot is heavy enough. But the amount of weight the Lord took off my shoulders, is the reason I could run so freely yesterday."

—Sydney McLaughlin

"My faith was being tested all week. From bad practices, to 3 false start delays, to a meet delay. I just kept hearing God say, 'Just focus on me,' It was the best race plan I could have ever assembled. I no longer run for self recognition, but to reflect His perfect will that is already set in stone. I don't deserve anything. But by grace, through faith, Jesus has given me everything. Records come and go. The glory of God is eternal. Thank you Father."

—Sydney McLaughlin

The Christian goal for life:

_____ to be like _____, because Jesus already has you.

4. The _____ — Maturity in Pressing Forward

Philippians 3:15-16 ESV

15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

The way you know you've been grasped by Jesus is you seek to grasp after Jesus.

What is the goal of my life?

What is God's goal for my life?

I _____ forward at making Jesus' life my _____,
because Jesus has made me His _____.

Discussion Questions – November 5, 2023

Getting to know you Questions:

1. Tell your group about a time when you were determined to accomplish something - a goal, a task, a discipline, etc. What did you do in order to achieve that goal? What were some things that distracted you?

2. If you allowed people to look at your life, what would they say you strive after, hunt after?

Into the Bible Questions:

Read Philippians 3:12-16

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

3. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?

4. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?

5. According to the Apostle Paul, what is the ultimate prize for the Christ-follower? Re-read verses 10-11 for a little more context.

6. **Why is it important for us to know that Christ has made us His own? What impact should that have on our life?**

7. Pastor Ian shared that your past doesn't need to control you. How do we let the past control us?

8. What are some ways we let our past goodness control us?

9. Are there people, events, or circumstances in your past that are preventing you from growing in the present?

10. Think about your relationship with Jesus. Do you tend to be determined, or distracted? Encourage the rest of your group by sharing some personal struggles and victories.

11. How can we make growth in Christ our highest priority?

For Extra Study, Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

12. From this passage, what are some of the characteristics of a good runner? What are some of the bad characteristics?

13. What are some ways you can run the Christian life with discipline?

14. What do you find challenging about trusting God?

15. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

16. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions

17. Someone has said, “The Christian life is more about our progression than our perfection.” Be honest with your group - how have you made progress toward the ultimate prize in the last year? Month? Week?

18. God is against us earning our relationship with him, not making every effort to grow in that relationship. If our focus should be on becoming more like Jesus, how will you make space this week (in your schedule, your wallet, your energy, etc.) to live for this focus?

19. How can we encourage each other to count on Jesus?