

**Letting Go to Gain More**

Pastor Gregg Brenes

**Paul's one goal, one focus, one passion... to gain Christ.**

Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sister, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. Phil. 3:1 NLT

**We must let go of lesser things to take hold of God's greater things for us.**

Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—<sup>4</sup> though I myself have reasons for such confidence. Philippians 3:2-4a

**Let go of religion to take hold of Christ.**

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ, <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. Philippians 3:8-9

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

- Faith takes hold of the righteousness of God provided through Christ.

**Let go of your power to take hold of resurrection power.**

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10-11

**Let go of your past to take hold of God's destiny for you.**

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14

- Forget what is behind – Release
- Strain toward what is ahead – Pursue
- Press on toward the goal – Persevere

**Let's Connect**

- Happy Thanksgiving! What is one thing you're thankful for?

**Let's Talk About It**

At some level, everyone wants to live their best life. But how? How do we cultivate a life that matters, of purpose, and makes a difference for the Lord in our world? An important element of living your best life is learning to let go of lesser things to take hold of God's greater things for us.

Philippians 3:1-14; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Ephesians 2:10

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Philippians 3:4-11. What do you need to let go of so that you can take hold of Christ? What source of confidence is there in your life that is not Christ?
- How does knowing Christ transform your view of weakness into an opportunity for His resurrection power in your current situation?
- Where do you need to forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead? How does Christ strengthen you with his power to press on toward the goal? Describe the goal you think Paul was talking about.

**Take a Step**

- What is something you need to let go of that hinders you from gaining more of Christ? What step can you take to release that to God this week and trust in His resurrection power?

**Here's My Prayer**

Jesus, You are greater and better than anything in this world. Forgive me for holding on so tightly to things that compete for more of You in my life. I want to know You and experience Your resurrection power in my life in a greater way. In Jesus' name, amen.