

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER TALLAHASSEE - HILLTOP

Studies in Philippians (Part 4) Our 7-Fold Goal in Christ (Phil. 3:7-21)

Our 7-Fold Goal in Christ (Phil. 3:8-21)

I. TO WIN CHRIST

- A. Philippians 3:7-8. To win Christ. The knowledge of knowing Christ which is of much greater value than anything else this life has to offer.
- B. You can spend all your life seeking all kinds of pursuits, but he who spends his life seeking for the treasure of eternal value (Jesus Christ) will have gained all there is to gain.

²Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ. (Phil. 3:8)

II. TO BE FOUND IN CHRIST

- A. Philippians 3:9: Like the lyrics to the 18th century Lutheran hymn, “*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness*” so our trust is to be in Christ and Christ alone for our salvation. Christ is the center of all that is needed in this life. There is hope in nothing else!

⁹“and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.” (Phil. 3:9).

III. TO KNOW CHRIST IN POWER AND SUFFERING

- A. Philippians 3:10: The number one goal in life is to know Christ, Paul said. How do we know Him? We know Him in resurrection power, and we know Him in the fellowship of His sufferings. To be conformed to His death.
- B. “*To be conformed to His death*” means that we will gladly “waste” our lives in things that truly matters in God’s eyes rather than attempting to live “safe” without risks.

“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” (Phil 3:10)

IV. TO BE GRIPPED BY AN ETERNAL MINDSET

- A. Philippians 3:11-12: To be gripped by an eternal mindset. Paul says, “*the thing that has captivated my life – I haven’t attained it yet; but I keep pressing on no matter what!*”

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”

- B. The word “press” means to run swiftly in order to catch a person or thing. To reach a goal.

V. TO OBTAIN THE HIGH CALLING

- A. Philippians 3:13: There is a “high calling” reserved for us in this race to obtain the fullness of Christ, Paul says. We can reach it if we have the right mindset in doing so.

- B. What is that mindset you ask? *“Forgetting what is behind us, and reaching forward to what is ahead of us!”*
- “...one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.” (3:13)*
- C. “Forgetting” means, no longer caring for. Given over to oblivion. The word “reaching” means to “stretch out towards”.

VI. TO WALK IN UNITY

- A. Philippians 3:15-16. *“Let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind” (v. 3:16)*. Lets all have the same mindset together, so we walk in unison as to what our purpose is as a group of believers in this age that we live.
- B. There is nothing more powerful than when a group decides to do something together. It’s the principle of exponential power. One can put a 1000 to flight, but two can put 10,000 to flight (Deu. 32:30).
- C. The account of the tower of Babel illustrates what happens when we set our minds on doing something together in unison:
- “Indeed the people are as one... now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them” (Gen. 11:6).*

VII. TO BE GLORIFIED WITH CHRIST

- A. Philippians 3:20-21: Here is the reason we do all these things: *“For our citizenship is in heaven” (v.20)*. The word [*politeuma*] means, community, civil rights, society, government etc.
- B. We live for another world. This world is not our final destination. We are only passing through. We are pilgrims and sojourners (foreigners, aliens).
- C. Paul says, in the end Christ will transform our lowly body and conform it to His glorious body (3:21). We will be changed by the power of His resurrection.