

A FOCUSED LIFE.

7-16-2023 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read the text: Phil. 3:10-16.

B. Regarding the text:

1. In **Phil. 3:10-16** we find a focus for one's life – a spiritual focus.
 - 1) Paul said “this one thing I do.”
 - 2) Not “a hundred things I start” or “a dozen things I attempt” – but “one thing I do”
2. Paul says he is putting all his energy into this one thing.

C. I am guilty of this. – At times I start too many projects and end up doing less than my best with most of them.

1. Old proverb: “He who begins too much accomplishes little.”
2. Do you have trouble staying focused? If so, a study of Paul's focused life will help us both.

I. FOCUSED ON A PERSON (PHIL. 3:10-11).

A. The person? Christ!

1. “Knowing” Christ involves more than just knowing about Him.
2. Paul enjoyed his relationship with Christ, but he longed for deeper knowledge.

B. Knowing Christ in this life.

1. Paul wanted to know “the power of His resurrection.”
 - 1) The strength for the Christian through the resurrection of the Lord.
 - 2) Paul wrote **Phil. 4:13** “I can do all things...”
2. Also, Paul wanted to know “the fellowship of his suffering.”
 - 1) To know Christ fully was to share in His suffering (**Gal. 6:17**).
 - 2) Through his suffering, Paul came to understand what the Lord had suffered for him.

C. Paul concluded with the words, “conformable unto his death.”

1. The idea was to have a proper understanding (**Gal. 2:20**).

D. The beginning of our quest to know Christ is seen in Romans 6 – notice the emphasis on Christ's suffering and resurrection and our need to conform to His death

1. Paul looked forward to knowing Christ in the next life (**Phil. 3:11**).
2. Paul looked forward to when he could know Christ fully.

II. FOCUSED ON A PRIZE.

A. **Philippians 3:12-14.**

1. **Vs. 12** Regarding the Present: Humility Needed.
 - 1) “Not as though I had already attained...” (**v. 12a**). Paul had not yet obtained the full knowledge of Christ – which would come at the resurrection.
 - 2) “...either were already perfect” (**v. 12b**) – Paul knew that he was not all he could be or should be.

B. If Paul claimed he had room to grow, what about us?

1. The Bible challenge is for us to grow (**Eph. 4:15; 2 Pet. 3:18**).
2. Regarding the Past: Forgiveness Needed.
3. How did Paul cope with not being all that he could be?
 - 1) “... forgetting those things which are behind” (**v. 13**)
 - 2) What did Paul forget?
 - 3) He forgot his past **successes** – as was seen earlier in this chapter.
 - a. We cannot rely on our past good behavior.

- b. We must continue to prove ourselves.
- 4) Paul also forgot past **failures**.
 - a. He admitted he was not yet not “laid hold.”
 - b. Paul did not spend his time regretting – he repented and moved forward.
 - c. Many allow the past to destroy their present and future.
 - d. **Heb. 8:12**.
- 5) 4. Regarding the Future: Progress Needed.
 - a. When we dwell on the past we many times become distracted and discouraged.
 - b. Paul said “this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before” (**v. 13**).
 - a) “I follow after [**press on - ASV**].”
 - b) Paul had a great desire to reach his spiritual goal.
- 4. What was Paul reaching for? Paul was reaching for the prize (**2 Tim. 4:6-8**).

III. FOCUSED ON PEOPLE (PHIL. 3:15-16).

A. Genuine Concern.

- 1. In **verses 4-14** we find Paul focused on his life (“I”- “me”-”my”- “myself”).
- 2. But in **verse 15** he suddenly shifts to the plural “Let us” – Paul’s focus in life was also on others.
 - 1) Paul wants everyone to have the attitude he has been describing.

B. **Vs. 15** Gentle Correction.

- 1. “... and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.”
- 2. One trait of immaturity is an inadequate grasp of God’s word.
- 3. Paul was confident that they would get the instruction they needed to make the proper decisions. He was confident that the dissenters would soon learn better.

C. **Vs. 16** A Gentle Reminder.

- 1. “Walk by the same rule...mind the same thing.”
- 2. To be spiritually united we must have a common authority – God’s Word.
- 3. God’s will for us will be plain if we will obediently adhere to His word.

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. We must stay focused on the spiritual task before us.

B. Many matters in life are important, but none are as important as following Jesus.