

“Christ is the Believer’s Goal”

Philippians 3:10

Sunday, September 18, 2016

Introduction: “The goal of my life is that I may _____.” How would you complete that blank? Would you say, “The goal of my life is that I may become wealthy, be healthy, get married, become famous, be happy, live long enough to see the Texans in the Super Bowl.” The apostle Paul said, “That I may know Him.”

Text: Philippians 3:1-10

- In verses 1-9, Paul laid aside his own personal righteousness.
- In Philippians 3:3, Paul tells them to have no confidence in the flesh.
- In Philippians 3:4-6, Paul list seven things that gave him “bragging rights.”
 1. “Circumcised the eighth day”—An Israelite by birth and he was proud of it.
 2. “The stock of Israel”—Paul’s parents were Hebrews by birth and Paul was proud of his pedigree.
 3. Of the tribe of Benjamin”—one of the elite tribes of Israel.
 4. “A Hebrew of Hebrews”—Adhered to the Hebrews language and customs.
 5. “A Pharisee”—Took the strictest view of the law.
 6. “Concerning zeal, persecuting the church”—A relentless persecutor of all heretics.
 7. “Concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless”—Paul measured up to every requirement.

T.S. In verses 7-9, Paul tells how he got it right.

1. You get to know God by faith.

- Paul made that very clear in verse 9
- You get to know God by faith in Christ only (9.).

Application: You put your faith in the fact of the atoning work of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Illustration: Paul made it very clear in his letter to the Ephesians (Ephesians 2:8-9).

2. You get to know God better by experience.

- When Paul got it right, the goal of his life changed.
- His goal became knowing God better (3:10).
- There are two Greek words used in the Bible that are translated into English as “know.” One refers to “something” we know. The other refers to “someone” we know.

Illustration: In Romans 8:28, the word translated into English as “know” refers to “something” we know. It refers to a fact. In our text, the Greek word translated into English as “know” refers to “someone” we know. It refers to something personal.

- When Paul said, “That I may know Him” he was not referring to salvation. Paul was saved when he wrote the book of Philippians. When Paul said, “That I may know Him” he was referring to knowing God in a more intimate and personal way. That became the goal of Paul’s life.

Application: I want this to be the goal of my life. I think all of you want this to be the goal of your life. All of us would say that we want to know God in a more intimate and personal way.

Conclusion: Good intentions produces little. We say things like, “I want to pray more, read my Bible more, tithe, do something for God, watch TV less, lose weight, get more sleep, worry less, exercise, etc.”. Those are all good intentions, but they never seem to happen.

The solution is to get the words “want to” out of what you say. Rather than saying that you want the goal of your life to be to know God better say, “The goal of my life **is to** know God better.”