

A Goal for the New Year

Philippians 3:12-14

Introduction: How to motivate your bet salesperson. A salesman is chewed out by his boss. He thought he had done well. Why would the boss be mad? “Pat is one of our best salesmen, but he has a tendency to slack off. If I didn’t get him mad at me once a month, he’d never produce.”

“When you get where you are going, where will you be?”

Much of today’s boredom and unhappiness in life can be traced to a lack of purpose for living.

Text: Paul’s personal dissatisfaction.

A sanctified dissatisfaction is the first essential to progress in our Christian lives. Too many Christians are satisfied because they compare their walk with that of others.

I.DEVOTION We must focus our lives!

“This one thing I do” -NOT-“These things I do”

One Thing- devotion, Passion

Rich Young Ruler “One thing you lack”

Busy Martha criticizing Mary – “One thing is needful”

Blind Man who received sight – “One thing I know”

Most athletes: Specialists – can’t do everything

Nehemiah 6:3 – “I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down.”

James 1:8 “A doubled-minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

II.DIRECTION We can’t have a do-over.

“Forgetting those things which are behind” a good forgetter!

“To forget” does not mean “To fail to remember”

Means “No longer to be influenced by or affected by”

Hebrews 10:17 “And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more!”

We break the power of the past by living for the future.

(We can’t rest on our laurels or live on our regrets.)

Genesis 45:1-15 Joseph held no grudges against those who sold him into slavery.

III.DETERMINATION We must act decisively.

“I press on” (like a runner who strains every muscle until the veins in his neck bulge, so we strain for the goal.

“Straining toward what is ahead” An intense endeavor.

Goal – “The prize of the high (upward) calling of God in Christ Jesus”

ILL. Forget (DROP THE “T” FORGE

ALL RUN – ONE WINS- ALL ARE REWARDED.

IV.DISCIPLINE We must keep the rules.

No penalties (Do we even know the rules?)

ILL. Jim Thorpe One of the greatest athletes of U.S.

1912 Stockholm Olympics – won gold HERO!

Later discovered Jim has played semi pro ball – FORFITED!!!

ILL. LOT - SAMSON - JUDAS

Conclusion: Matthew 6:33 “Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these will be given to you as well.”