

Vision Weekend 2020 Philippians 3:7-14

Happy New Year – how are your New Year's resolutions going? - I call them goals

A) Every year – toward the end of the year – my wife sit down to talk about goals for the next year.

B) REALISTIC Goals are good!

C) Goals are those things that help us keep focused – Have direction in our lives / avoid being complacent

1) Goals are what keep us moving Forward & pressing on in life

Our goals will be seen by what we spend our time doing:

A) Couple buying a house / penny pinching {Working extra hours

B) College student who is trying to get that Degree { Long hrs in the Library { Sacrificing Social time w/ Friends

C) The Person who is wanting to climb the Job Ladder might put in extra time and take on extra Projects to make a GOOD impression

D) Couple dating { praying about marriage will be spending time together learning to communicate / learning to build each other up in the Lord

The Point being: Your goals are going to be seen by Your Pursuits –

A) Where you are spending your time / energy & your Resources

B) It is good to have goals –

1) but there is one GOAL that every Christian needs to have that supersedes all others

C) It is the goal that Paul talks about here in Phil 3

D) It is the Goal of becoming more Like Christ – That is to be the Priority of the Believer

E) Everything else is secondary to achieving that One GOAL.

This past fall as I was thinking and praying about 2020 – and our Church.

A) The Lord put two words on my heart for CV

B) The first word was FOCUS – I think there are certain things the Lord wants us to Focus on in 2020

1) No pun intended

C) The 2nd word – was expectation – The Lord wants us to live with a certain expectation of him moving

1) Working in our lives in fresh ways in 2020

D) Today Philippians 3

Paul is talking here about his mindset – his focus – his goals and expectation in pursuing Jesus

A) See how this relates to us here at CV

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet 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 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; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

B) Paul the Apostle was probably the greatest Christian who as ever lived

1) Attitude and focus that tells us why

C) Paul's focus was Jesus – His passion was Jesus His Pursuit was Jesus

D) Started at his Conversion – Who are you Lord 1) What do you want me to do?

How would your life and my life change if we adopted that Focus!

A) Who are you – Know Jesus

B) What do you want me to do? How make Jesus known – How Serve

Now what is interesting to me about our text – Paul’s focus there is an emptying and a pursuing

A)Emptying - 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have **counted loss** for Christ.

B)If you read the opening verses of Chapter you see Paul sort of gives his testimony

1)Lays out who he was before coming to Christ – all his accomplishments – pedigree –

C)All the things that others would look at to hold Paul in High esteem

1) Paul says - I have counted all that loss for Christ – None of that is important apart from Jesus

D)Who he was in Jesus was the most important thing to Paul

But then he continues 8 Yet indeed I also **count all things** loss(Count is present tense) 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

A)Counted it lost – still counts it loss – why?

1)The flesh rears its ugly head

B)His flesh continued to try and get him to place his confidence in those things.

1)So I continue **to COUNT THEM AS LOSS**

C)Then just so we don’t miss the point – Paul says **I Count as rubbish –Garbage**

1)Actually stronger – **Dung in the KJV**

D)Paul didn’t want anything to get in the way of him getting closer to Christ.

I count it loss for the excellence of the Knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord -

A)**I count it all rubbish that I may gain Christ**

B)Now this is what I find so interesting about this passage – Paul has been a Christian 30 yrs

C)And Yet he says – I am laying aside everything that might get in the way me gaining Christ

1)Of me growing in my knowledge of Jesus

D)He had planted scores of Churches – wrote much of the NT at this point

1)Still all about gaining Jesus/ Knowing Jesus

We would ask Paul don’t you have Jesus by now – Don’t you know Him –

A)Yes – but there is more so much more Focus – Study to begin the year!

B)New series – Transcendent – surpassing the Ordinary- Exceptional – JESUS

1)VISION FOR STUDY- Jesus and people – How are we like ... Who is like – How can we be...

¹⁸But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor.3:18

A)Promise as we behold Jesus – with teachable hearts we will become more like Jesus

B)Focus of this study – See Jesus – his heart for us – see how we can be like Jesus to others

C)Paul’s focus – After 30 years of walking with Jesus – Focus and passion – Know Him more!

When Spain led the world (in the 15th century), their coins reflected their national arrogance and were inscribed *Ne Plus Ultra* which meant “Nothing Further” - meaning that Spain was the ultimate in all the world. After the discovery of the New World, they realized that they were not the “end of the world” - they changed the inscription on their coinage to *Plus Ultra* - meaning “More Beyond.”

Which motto better expresses your Christian life - “Nothing Further” or “More Beyond”?

A)Notice v. 1010 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection,

B)Yes Know Him in His Resurrection power – That is what I want – know His power

1)Note what Paul says next and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

C)Why the fellowship of his suffering?
The Longer I Have walked with Jesus – Pastored here 23yrs

1)I have come to experience – Jesus is seen the most In our times of suffering

I have experienced a lot with so many of you.

A)Your marriage – your kids birth – kids dedication

B)Some of you – Your kids wedding -then grand kids

C)Wonderful times of celebration – rejoicing
But I have also experienced with many of you – the

Death of a child – a husband – a parent

A)It is in those latter times – the presence and power

Of Jesus has been most seen and felt

B)Paul experienced that – Grace is sufficient

C)That is why Paul would write – I want to know Him in his Resurrection power but also His suffering

D)Some of us are going to experience some difficulty and suffering in 2020

1)My prayer for us – is that when it happens we wouldn't try to run from it – lean into it

E)We would lean into Jesus – And that you would allow us as a church family to lean into it together

Notice how Paul continues ¹² 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.

A)I love this phrase – Paul says I haven't attained yet – haven't arrived – I press on

B)I pressing on lay hold of Jesus – so I can discover the reason Jesus laid hold of me.

1)For Paul that was an ongoing revelation

C)Every new city – every new experience – new encounter – This is why Jesus Laid hold of me

It is true – Jesus has a plan a purpose for your life

A)He has laid hold of you – general sense – know Him – His child – family – heaven

B)But he has also laid hold of you for a specific purpose – that is ONGOING

C)As you press into Jesus in 2020 I want you to do so with an expectation –

1)The Lord is going to be revealing to you so new reasons why he apprehended you.

D)Where you are going to discover that is going to be in responding to opportunities to serve him

1)In new relationships that Jesus is going to bring into your life – if you are open to them – group Tom/Lyn

E)In those Divine appointments that you take advantage of –

1)You can say at the end of 2020 – This is why Jesus apprehended me – He used me in this way

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

There was a focus to Paul's life – there was also a forgetting in Paul's life

A)Forgetting what lies behind - two aspects

B)Definitely want to forget the failures – Sins – Confessed – forgiven and forgotten

1)2019 was a bad year – went backwards –

C)Learn from it to not make same mistakes – and Move forward!

1)Don't dwell on the past

But I also think we need to also forget the Victories!

A)Here is what I mean by that/ We don't want to dwell on past victories to the point we don't move forward

B)Some people live in the Past – Back in 1970 on fire for Jesus – led all my friends to the Lord –

1)Ok great – what about now? – When is the last time

You talked to someone about Jesus

C)If there was a time you were closer to the Lord and more passionate – than now- that is a problem!

D)It is good Appreciate the past – but the past can't define us

1) We must Look toward the future – live for...
future

E) New adventures and

It is good to look to the past – learn from mistakes and from our victories – but let's not stay there

A) At this point – take a few minutes to look back at

2019 as a church – good year in many ways

B) Lots of new People who became a part of our church family –

C) Loved going through Ephesians and Romans

1) Saw quite a few people come to Christ every month

D) Passionate worship- Love hearing you/Magnify

Area of Outreach – big impact

A) Vision: Last one – we exist to make an impact in our culture for Jesus - Upreach/ glory/

B) Inreach- body – Outreach – gospel impact

C) We as a Church believe in the commandment to go into all the world taking the gospel – local/ abroad Here is what that looked like for CV in 2019

4 trips to 5 countries –

March- New Zealand

A team of 30 people ministered the Word and the gospel to over 1300 people with school outreaches and strengthening churches in Tauranga and Auckland

April - Uganda,

A team of 8 people ministered the gospel to over 800 people

Strengthening the church at CC Entebbe

Plus Ministering medical aid to those in need on remote islands

End of July – Hungary

I went to Hungary to speak at a Conference for Serbian believers with over 280 attendees.

A Great week of building up the believers from 8 different churches.

From there in August – Italy

Strengthening Pastor Dave Downs and his wife Danae as well as the believers in a new church Calvary Chapel church plant in Turin Italy.

December - Guatemala

Pastor Rob Nash and Mike Viveros went to teach at a Pastors and leaders conference

Took part in a Children's Outreach ministering to over 300 kids seeing several 100 come to Christ.

Over 40 people from CV went on these overseas mission trips in 2019 giving \$64,700 to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

- \$188,800 from CV went to support missionaries and to share the gospel through missions

Your giving – part of your reward.

Other missions outreach

- Outreach ministry to Indian reservations in 3 different states. Arizona, New Mexico and California
- 2 Mexico trips ministering to orphans

Local outreach pics of both

Easter

- over 2,000 in attendance – 30 people responded to the gospel

Resurrection trail pics

- Volunteers of all ages shared the gospel and story of the final week in the life of Jesus with over 300 attendees

Harvest festival

- Approximately 2,000 people in attendance – the gospel was presented in various forms throughout the night
- through these three outreaches - The gospel was presented to over 4,300 people– with at least 50 people making public professions of faith

Armor of light outreaches

- Three Camp Pendleton outreaches ministering to over 1800 military recruits and seeing over 300 make decisions to follow Christ.

Good News Clubs

- volunteers lead 2 clubs met 43 times with 72 kids and 10 first time decisions for Christ

Be the Church Food

- for Homeless children - provided over 2400 meals for deprived children in the Vista unified school district

Food Pantry.

- This year pastors prayed with people and gave out \$3200 worth of donated food including 150 bags and 75 boxes of food.

Angle Tree

- Volunteers delivered gifts the body donated to 105 kids/41 families. -

Jail Ministry

- Now at six SD county facilities 5 chaplains and scores of volunteers reaching out to over 4,500 total, over 700 in Vista.

Saturate San Diego

- Delivered 18,000 Jesus film DVD's and gospel tracks and invitations to CCV.

Total number of people ministered to through local outreaches – 31,943 people – **doesn't include the Radio**

I would say that 2019 was a good year in the way of Missions outreach and local outreach.

A)Are we going to say - *Ne Plus Ultra* which meant "*Nothing Further*" – *We are good*

B)Or are we going to say: *Plus Ultra* - meaning "**More Beyond.**" Lord do more – with us and in us!

C)A lot of that will depend upon you – your involvement –

1)40 people went in 2019 - what if 80 people went on overseas mission trips this year?

D)Already have trips planned right now to Philippines and Peru in 2020 – 35 people signed up

**E)Praying about Hungary again – and New Zealand
Also Italy and Guatemala again**

Maybe the Lord will have you go on one of those trips – or Give to help someone else go

A)As you give – as you get behind the work through tithes and offering – fuels more opportunity

B)Every year we budget to break even

C)2019 our giving ended up being down –

1)Not sure why - So as we look 2020 temptation to do less

I don't think that is what the Lord wants – last days

A)*Plus Ultra* - meaning "**More Beyond.**" Lord do more

B)We want to make an even bigger impact for the gospel in 2020

1)Share Jesus with more people in 2020

B)How do we do that? – Notice again Paul's words in our text

V.13 - **forgetting** those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

C)You see there is Focus on Jesus

1)A Forgetting of the past

D)#3 A FORGING AHEAD - **reaching forward to those things which are ahead,** ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

AGAIN I ASK – What would happen if we all said collectively and individually

A)Lord we want our FOCUS TO BE ON YOU?
KNOW YOU MORE!

B)Lord we don't want to be defined by our Past Failures or our past victories

C)So Lord we are surrendered – what do you want us to do in 2020 – We are open – Available

If we approach 2020 in that way – that Focus – We CAN EXPECT the Lord to do great things

A)In our lives, our families – our church – our cities

Even this world

B)AMEN?

C)As we close today- Communion –

1)Song partake – Lets make it our prayer first of all – Jesus we want to know you – Power of Your Resurrection –

2)Fellowship of Your suffering

D)Also: Partake – Jesus as you gave yourself for us

1)We want to give ourselves to you – fully and completely – totally yours in 2020