

Choosing Goals

The Choices Before Us

Philippians 3:12-16

KEY VERSES

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal,^[a] but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ^[b] has laid hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold^[a] of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly^[b] call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us, then, who are mature^[b] think this way, and if you think differently about anything, this, too, God will reveal to you. ¹⁶Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

Even as he draws nearer to death while serving his time in prison, Paul continues to make choices about how to live and focus his attention. For us too, no matter where we find ourselves, our choices still matter. **What are your current goals where you live, work, and play? What dictates your decisions the most?**

The goals that previously governed Paul's life concerned his identity as a Pharisee and his zeal and purity. Though Paul achieved these goals, he realizes they were for nothing and is leaving them behind, "pressing on toward the goal, the prize of the heavenly call of God." There is also a heavenly call on each of our lives. **Do you think the goals you currently have are the right ones for your life? Do you feel they're worthy of dictating the decisions you make every day?**

In the same way that we aren't the point of our own lives, the church and its own growth and well-being are not the point either. Though goals help guide us as an institution, we as Covenant is simply an outpost for the kingdom of God. We, the congregation, ARE the church. If we have a sense of our own individual divine callings, then as a church we can be much more effective as the hands and feet of God in our community. **What goals will you "press on toward" as a result of examining what's truly important and valuable in your life? How are you questioning your path and who can help you navigate your goals?**