

## **I'm With Him!**

*“For The Win” Series – Part 01*

**Connect:** What is the failure that you most cherish? Why?

**Hook:**

On more than one occasion, I have gone to the store for my wife and then returned home to find that I did not pick up what I went to get. Forgetful? Not listening? Distracted? Maybe all of the above!

Someone has wisely pointed out, “One of the most dangerous forms of human error is forgetting what one is trying to achieve” (Paul Nitze, in Reader's Digest [7/92], p. 137). This can be true at a grocery store, at work, during family time, and is especially true when it comes to living the Christian life. It's easy to get sidetracked. We need to be clear and focused at all times on what it is we're after.

What is the goal of the Christian life? In a brief sentence, express this goal?

As your group discussed this question, you probably found the goal can be stated in several ways. But in our text, the apostle Paul nicely sums up what our aim should be.

**Book: Philippians 3:8-14**

Php 3:8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ

Php 3:9 and become one with Him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with Himself depends on faith.

Php 3:10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead. I want to suffer with Him, sharing in His death,

Php 3:11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

Php 3:12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

Php 3:13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

Php 3:14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

**Look:**

In lesson one of our current series, *“For the Win”*, Pastor Brandon shared from the book of Ephesians that we are to live life as winners and not in defeat, because our victory lies in the power and authority of Christ our Savior. Jesus wins and so do His followers! In the book of Philippians, Paul reminds us that the power that raised Jesus from the dead on that first Resurrection Sunday is the same power that's readily available to His children today. Let's consider how we can lay hold of this wonderful, winning power:

What did Paul cast aside (he considered it “garbage”) so that he might gain Christ?

What are obstacles that might stand in our way today?

Paul makes the way of salvation (of being declared right in God’s sight) clear. What is that way and what does it have to do with service, responsibilities and the Christian experience?

After “gaining” Christ (a saving relationship), Paul’s desire is to “know” Christ. What does it mean to “know” Christ?

Many people have “gained” Christ as their Savior, but how does one position himself to “know” Christ?

Paul is in a great personal trial and writes these words from prison, yet he speaks in hopeful terms. How can we keep from feeling defeated when trials hit?

How do suffering and winning work together? How can I hurt and still be victorious?

Read Phil. 3:12 again. What is Paul’s goal? Put it in your own words. Is this a worthy goal for us? How can we pursue this goal?

**Took:**

Are you experiencing God’s power in your life and ministry? Beyond your own efforts and understanding?

How has your suffering helped you to experience God’s power?

Are there any areas in your life where you especially need to experience God’s power?

How is God calling you to more faithfully appropriate this power?