

Scripture: Philippians 3

Lord's Day 33. 91

Singing: 401:1-3 – 428:1-2 -- 271:1-3 – 242:1-4

Let's Study Philippians (26)

Three important truths about conversion

1. Conversion is not a loss (Acts 26:18)
2. Conversion is a real change (2 Cor. 3:18)
3. Conversion is not easy (Acts 14:21-22)

THE PURPOSEFUL CHRISTIAN

- I. Whose purpose is driving a Christian?
- II. What purpose drives a Christian?
- III. What does a purpose driven Christian do?

I. Whose purpose drives a Christian?

A. Christ Himself drives this purpose in a Christian:

1. vs. 12: *I am apprehended* – vs. 14: *high calling of God in Christ Jesus*

B. The prize Paul purposed to reach was guaranteed by God's saving purpose

1. Compare Romans 8:29-39; Eph. 1:4

2. God will do whatever is needed to produce holiness in us (Rom. 8:28)

II. What purpose drives a Christian?

A. It is distinct purpose Paul has in mind (1 Cor. 9:26)

1. He has not yet reached it (vs. 12-14) but has hopes he will (vs. 20-21)

B. What is the specific purpose (prize) Paul pressed for to reach?

1. His goal was to *abound in good works*

- a. *abounding in good works*: 2 Cor. 8:7; 2 Cor. 9:8; Phil. 1:9; 4:17;
1 Thess. 3:12; 1 Thess. 4:1; 2 Peter 1:8

- b. to *abound in good works* is God's goal in salvation: Eph. 2:10; 2 Tim. 3:17; Titus 3:8

D. What are good works?

1. the doctrinal definition: Heid Cat 91

2. the experiential definition: Phil. 2:5-8

a. the Person and Life of Christ is the living expression of good works

- good works are not just doing 'good things'
- good works are doing good things with a 'good heart'

III. What does a purpose driven Christian do?

A. They are active persons who strive to reach God's purpose

1. vs 12: follows after it (vs. 14: press)

2. vs. 13: forgetting those things which are behind

3. vs. 13: reaching forth

Reflection

A. Sanctification is not just *Let go and let God!*

B. Sanctification is God at work enabling us to work out our salvation (Phil. 2:12)

C. Sanctification is God's Gospel gift as much as justification

The call to Christian commitment is a call to endure hardness.

For the Christian this world is an arena and not an armchair

There is no holiness without a warfare against yourself.