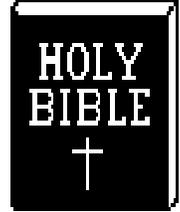


SERMON NOTES

Speaker: James E. Rogers
Date: May 17, 2015
Place: Smyrna, Cookeville, Tennessee
Subject: Goals



I. INTRODUCTION

A. In the 2000 Super Bowl, the Tennessee Titans marched 87 yards in 1:54. With six seconds left, the Titans quarterback completed a pass to a wide receiver who was tackled at the one-yard line. “As a final gesture of what might have been, the Titan(sic) receiver, lying there on the ground, stretched out his hand to plunk the ball down just over the goal line as the clock ran out In the words of a sportscaster, ‘They made 87, but they needed 88.’”¹

B. What goals do we have in our lives? Are we reaching them or falling just short?

C. Let us study Scriptural principles about goals.

II. GOALS SHOW THINGS ABOUT US

A. Goals show the _____ things in our lives. Matthew 6:21; 16:26

B. Goals show the _____ we serve. Matthew 6:24

1. Jesus’ goal was to serve his Father. John 4:34; 5:30,36; 6:38; 8:29; 17:4; 19:28,30

2. Joshua’s goal was to serve Jehovah. Joshua 24:15

C. Goals show the _____ we will follow.

1. The Psalmists would follow Jehovah.

a. In righteousness. Psalms 23:3. “Guide” (“leadeth” KJV) is *na^cha^h* (*naw-khaw*) . . . to *guide*” Psalms 5:8; 31:3

b. In truth. Psalms 25:5

c. In justice. Psalms 25:9

d. To the end. Psalms 48:14; 73:24

2. Judah was exhorted to follow Jehovah. Isaiah 58:1-14

3. Those who serve the Lamb will follow him to “fountains of waters of life.” Revelation 7:17; 14:4

D. Goals show that which we will _____.

1. The Psalmist would glorify the name of Jehovah. Psalms 86:12
2. The follower of Jesus will cause others to glorify their Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16
3. Paul exhorted the Romans to glorify “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:6
4. The Christian will glorify God in his body. 1 Corinthians 6:20
5. Paul wanted the word of the Lord to “run and be glorified.” 2 Thessalonians 3:1
6. Peter exhorted Christians to quiet those who blasphemed them by causing them to behold their good works and lead to them to “glorify God in the day of visitation.” 1 Peter 2:12

E. Goals show the _____ we seek.

1. We are not seeking unjust gain. Exodus 18:21; Isaiah 33:15; Ezekiel 22:13,27; Habakkuk 2:9
2. We are not greedy of gain. Proverbs 1:19; 15:27; Isaiah 56:11
3. We seek to gain souls. 1 Corinthians 9:19-22
4. We seek, through Gospel obedience, to gain the Christ. Philippians 3:7,8
5. We seek the gain we will find in death. Philippians 1:21
 - a. We will gain “the city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God . . . a better country, that is, a heavenly.” Hebrews 11:10,16
 - b. We will gain “new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:13

III. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE GOALS, WE MUST HAVE A PLAN

A. We must identify the _____ and set forth a _____ to achieve it. Hebrews 11:8-16

1. The plan should involve breaking the goal down into _____ pieces.
 - a. This makes it less _____. Mark 1:38
 - b. Win one battle at a time instead of trying to achieve the end at once.
2. The plan should require a _____ for achieving the goal. Use _____ to help you get the work done to achieve the goal.

B. We must set _____ goals which can be _____. Luke 19:10

C. We must be _____ with what we will do to reach the goal.

1. "Your resolution should include not only *what* you want to change . . . but *why* you want to change . . . and *how* you're going to change Only when all three elements have been stated can you begin to fulfill your goal."²

2. We must be willing to give our best effort to achieve the goal.

a. Ecclesiastes 9:10

b. Romans 12:11

(1). Sedulous _____ not slothful _____.

(2). Fervent _____ not fretting _____.

(3). Serving the Savior _____ not Self _____.

D. We must set goals we wish to _____, not goals others wish us to achieve. Hebrews 11:24-26

E. We have a better chance of achieving goals if we enlist the _____ of others. Tell them specifically how they can help you. Numbers 10:29-32

F. Use _____ to help you achieve your goal. Some encourage _____ the goal on paper and carrying it with you until you achieve it.

G. Have a _____ to deal with the _____ to stop and _____ failures.

1. "Usually it's the *anticipation* of failure that paralyzes, not failure itself, according to management consultant Allan Cox. 'We survive our failures,' he says. 'We pick ourselves up and try again. We *have* to.'"³

2. Luke 9:61,62

H. Be _____ as you move toward the goal.

1. Patience gives consistency in the efforts to reach the goal.

2. Work on the goal one day at a time. Matthew 6:34

I. Don't ever _____.

IV. THERE IS A GOAL FOR WHICH WE SHOULD STRIVE. PHILIPPIANS 3:13,14

A. Paul's estimation of his _____. 3:13. "I count not myself yet to have laid hold." Each must examine himself. 2 Corinthians 13:5

B. Paul's concentration on his _____. 3:13. "But one thing. Philippians 1:21

C. Paul's elimination of the _____. 3:13. "Forgetting the things which are behind."

1. "Grove Patterson, editor of the *Toledo Blade* once wrote a classic editorial entitled 'Water Under the Bridge.' It told of a boy who leaned against the railing of an old bridge and watched the current of the river below. He watched a log float past, then a piece of driftwood, a leaf, and a chip of wood. The water kept flowing by—under the bridge. The image stuck in the boy's mind and served him well in future years. He had some very difficult days, but he knew that they like the water would pass under the bridge. When he made a mistake or fumbled an opportunity he would say: 'It's water under the bridge.' He did not waste valuable time lamenting past errors, nor did he let trouble get him down because it was 'water under the bridge.'"⁴

2. He eliminated his past _____.

a. 2 Corinthians 11:22-33; Galatians 1:14

b. "We cannot rest on past laurels. How many times have you heard that? What does it mean and where did it come from? The laurel tree was used to make a crown for the winners in the Pythian games. Later it was used for academic honors. The meaning is we cannot rest on past attainments or victories."⁵

3. He eliminated his past _____.

a. Acts 8:3; 9:1,2

b. Galatians 1:13

c. 1 Timothy 1:13

D. Paul's determination in the _____. 3:13,14. "Stretching forward to the things which are before. I press on toward the goal unto the prize."

1. Stretch toward the _____. 3:13

a. "Epekteinomenos. Present direct middle participle of the old double compound *epekteino* (stretching myself out towards). Metaphor of a runner leaning forward as he runs."⁶

b. Hebrews 12:1. "Let us run the race" is *trechomen ton agona*. "Amid all hindrances let us exert ourselves to the utmost to attain to the goal of perfection set before the followers of Christ' . . . by a metaphor taken from the runners in a race, *to exert one's self, strive hard* . . . the same expression occurs in Grk. writ., denoting to incur extreme peril, which it requires the exertion of all one's efforts to overcome"⁷

2. Press on toward the _____. 3:14

a. "Press" is *dioko* which means "to pursue."⁸

b. "Kata skopon. Down upon the goal The word means a watchman, then

the goal or mark.”⁹ “I pursue along the line; this is a reference to the white line that marked the ground in the stadium, from the starting place to the goal, on which the runners were obliged to keep their eye fixed; for they who transgressed or went beyond this line did not run lawfully, and were not crowned, even though they got first to the goal.”¹⁰

c. 1 Corinthians 9:24

d. Hebrews 6:1. “Press on” is “pherometha. Volitive present subjunctive passive, ‘Let us be borne on’ The Pythagorean Schools use *pherometha* in precisely this sense of being borne on to a higher stage of instruction.”¹¹

E. Paul’s identification of the _____. 3:14. “The high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

1. “Prize” is “brabeion (*brab-I’-on*); From βραβεύς brabeus (an *umpire*; of uncertain derivation); an *award* (of arbitration), that is, (specifically) a *prize* in the public games.”¹²

2. The prize is “Literally, ‘of the upward calling.’ The goal continually moves forward as we press on, but yet never out of sight.”¹³

3. The prize, in context, may be “the resurrection of the dead” (Philippians 3:11) which would include heaven.

V. WE MAY REACH OUR GOALS. PHILIPPIANS 3:15,16

A. This is a _____ (“therefore”) from what he has said in 3:1-14.

B. This is to the _____ Christians.

1. “Perfect” is *teleioi*, which here refers to “full grown, adult, of full age, mature . . . of mind and character, one who has reached the proper height of virtue and integrity: Mt. v. 48; xix. 21; Phil. iii. 15 . . . Jas. I. 4”¹⁴

2. 1 Corinthians 2:6; 14:20

3. Ephesians 4:13

4. Hebrews 5:14

C. This is to bring them to _____.

1 They are to continue in the course they have chosen that will lead them to the completion for which they are striving (3:12). “Already made perfect” is *teteleiomai*, which means “to complete (*perfect*), i.e. *add what is yet wanting in order to render a thing full*”¹⁵

2. 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

3. Colossians 3:1-4

4. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

5. 2 Peter 3:11-13

VI. CONCLUSION

A. What are your goals and how do you plan to achieve them?

B. Is the Christ the center of your goals?

C. Obey the Gospel and live faithfully.

ENDNOTES

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7. Joseph Henry Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1977), pp. 10,630
8. W. E. Vine, *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, Co., 1966), Volume 3, p. 208
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13. Robertson, Volume 4, p. 455
14. Thayer, p. 618
15. Thayer, p. 618