

A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

Philippians 3:12-16

- **The Lord wants to help us all learn how to really MAKE LIFE COUNT.**
- *"Leave your impoverished confusion and live! Walk up the street to a life with meaning."* (Proverbs 9:6)
- **Almost everyone wants to experience success in some arena of life.**
- ***What's my definition of success?***
- **God's Word teaches us how to be successful in every area of life, but particularly how to be successful in our spiritual lives (Philippians 3:12-16).**
- **Paul was one of the most successful men who ever lived, and he wanted others to live successful, victorious lives (Philippians 3:12-16).**
- ***What does it take for us to live a successful Christian life?***

Living A Successful Christian Life Requires:

GROWING IN OUR PRESENT LIFE

- *"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."* (Philippians 3:12)
- **Paul's words remind us of the *Beginning of the Christian Life*.**
    - *"I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me."* (Philippians 3:12)
    - **Making Jesus our Savior requires: 1) Repenting of our sins (Acts 3:19), 2) Placing our Faith in Him (Acts 4:12), and 3) Surrendering our lives to Him (Romans 10:9-10).**
    - ***When did Jesus become my Savior and how has He changed my life?***
- **Paul's words remind us of the *Objective of the Christian Life*.**
    - *"I press on to possess that perfection . . ."* (Philippians 3:12)

- **When Jesus comes into our lives His purpose and plan is for us to become mature, useful, victorious Christians.**
- *"This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ."* (Ephesians 4:13)
- **Becoming "mature in the Lord" requires: 1) living by God's Word (Psalm 119:104-105, John 8:31-32), 2) listening to God's Spirit (Acts 8:27-29), 3) linking up with God's People (Romans 12:4-5) and 4) getting involved in service (Matthew 20:26-28, 1 Peter 4:10).**
- ***What are some steps I can take to grow in the Lord?***

Living A Successful Christian Life Requires:

FOCUSING ON OUR <u>PURPOSE</u>

- *"I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing:"* (Philippians 3:12-13)
- **Success in any area of life is achieved by intention rather than by accident.**
- **To be successful Christians we must persistently focus on growing in the Lord, becoming like Jesus and impacting our world for Him.**
- **We should live our lives surrendered to being who Jesus has called us to be and to doing what He's called us to do.**
- *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20)
- ***What changes do I need to make to become more focused on fulfilling my life purpose?***

Living A Successful Christian Life Requires:

FORGETTING THE <u>PAST</u>

- *"Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead."* (Philippians 3:13)
- **There are some things that we should not forget in our lives, but we have to move past some of life's experiences to become successful Christians.**
- **We need to learn how to forget our *Past Guilt*.**
    - **Guilt destroys our confidence, damages our relationships, and destines us to remain "stuck."**
    - *"If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9)
    - **If we struggle with guilt after we have really asked the Lord to forgive us it's because the Devil is trying to keep us in bondage to guilt.**

    - *"What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! What relief for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record."* (Psalm 32:1-2)
- **We need to learn how to forget our *Past Glories*.**
    - *"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 and become one with Him."* (Philippians 3:8-9)
    - **It's good to have achievements in life, but we can't let our pursuit of accomplishments distract us from following the Lord.**
- **We need to learn how to forget our *Past Griefs*.**
    - *"Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea.."* (2 Corinthians 11:24-25)
    - **We can't let the difficulties of our lives define who we are or what we achieve in life.**
- **We need to learn how to forget our *Past Grievances*.**
    - *"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."* (Colossians 3:13)
    - **We can perhaps consider not forgiving others when they've harmed us more than we've harmed the Lord with our attitudes and actions.**
- ***What are some "things" that I need to let go of in my life?***

Living A Successful Christian Life Requires:

PURSUING OUR HEAVENLY <u>PRIZE</u>

- *"Looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."* (Philippians 3:13-14)
- **Successful Christians are as "sold out" for the Lord as they once were for the Devil and for themselves.**
- **When we live a successful Christian life we can look forward to receiving awards from the Lord in Heaven (Matthew 25:23-30, 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, Colossians 3:23-24, 2 Timothy 4:8).**
- ***What am I looking forward to when I get to Heaven?***

- **We must work with a team if we are to finish our race well.**
- *"We must hold on to the progress we have already made."* (Philippians 3:16)
- **We must hold on to our progress and continue "growing in the Lord" to overcome the obstacles and opposition we're going to experience in life.**

- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message?***