

Philippians #37

"Motivation for the long haul"

Philippians 3:12-14

"I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them and that is faith in Jesus Christ. If they had that and I had not given them a single shilling, they would have been rich and if they had not that and I had given them all the world, they would be poor indeed."

Patrick Henry

Saul of Tarsus' values have drastically changed and Paul considered all his life-long earthly accomplishments worthless compared to knowing Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 32:27

"I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"

Paul wasn't discouraged because of his circumstances.

So, for Paul, it's 'For me to live is Christ and I don't know what He's going to do next but He does and that makes it exciting for me.'

When Jesus Christ voluntarily gave up His rights, God the Father gave Him every right in the universe!

Paul says: 'You can't beat my ancestry or the strictness of my religion and concerning morality, I was blameless.'

'But now, whatever these things were to me in the past, I count all of them as loss because I found my confidence in Jesus Christ.'

In one moment of time, Paul looked out ahead and saw that he had not yet attained his ultimate goal or objective.

There is no place in spiritual greatness or even human greatness, where failures should be allowed to discourage us.

The objective can only be taken under a certain standard of daily learning, thinking and applying God's Word.

From his salvation, Paul was turned around to become the greatest believer in history and to reach objectives never before attained.

Only rebellion hinders spiritual growth but Paul has recovered from his and being still alive, he moves from one mature objective to another—from greater-grace to ultimate greater-grace.

Paul is not simply evaluating himself for himself, he is evaluating himself for us.

We should never allow any failures in the past to handicap us because as long as we are alive, God has a purpose for us.

Paul's not going to forget his failure because he obviously writes about it from time to time but he is going to forget it as a handicap.

Our past failures must never be a deterrent in our spiritual advance; the only deterrent is death.

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Biblical truth in the soul is the key to avoiding the trap of being hindered by past failures and becoming subjective, hypersensitive and therefore unhappy, discontented or involved in any of the reactor factors in life.

All believers enter plan of God by means of Jesus Christ, the only Savior.

God will provide the time and the necessities for breaking through the maturity barrier under the principle of living grace.

The strong believer's temporal blessings of promotion include: wealth, success, social, sexual, material and technical prosperity, as well as leadership qualities.

The weak believer remains arrogant, rejecting all authority but his own.

The weak believer is constantly critical of the strong believer, having no understanding or appreciation of grace and is therefore constantly picking at the grace believer.

Great people are not people who have never failed but those who've NOT allowed their failures to hold them back.