

Pursuing the Prize

When the Apostle Paul wrote, he often used 1st century images to illustrate specific truths about the Christian life. In Philippians 3:12-16, he used the image of an athlete who runs. Here, Paul stated four principles essential to the running the Christian race toward heaven: 1) personal dissatisfaction, 2) steadfast determination, 3) focused devotion, and 4) consistent discipline.

Personal dissatisfaction (3:12a, 13a). Paul chose not to be self-satisfied and content to remain where he was spiritually. Pursuing the prize requires that we all accept the need to continue to grow and mature.

Steadfast determination (3:12b, 14a). Paul chose to run with all his might in the pursuit. Pursuing the prize requires that we all put forth all your effort.

Focused devotion (3:13). Paul chose to forget what was “behind” and stretch forward to what was “before”. Pursuing the prize requires that we all focus on what is ahead, not behind.

Consistent discipline (3:15-16). Paul chose to follow the truths given to him by Jesus. Pursuing the prize requires that we all keep running by the same rules (truths) that we started with on our run.

Let's all be like Paul as we run the Christian race toward our “goal” and “prize” of heaven. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- God's grace is greater than our problems.
- You can never recover a lost opportunity.
- What you do is a result of who you are.
- A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a person without adversity.
- Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

July 21, 2019



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Putting the “First” Back in the “First Day”

What is the “first day of the week”? You might think Monday, right? The “first day of the week” is actually Sunday. In the New Testament, the phrase “first day of the week” is mentioned eight different times. The first six times deal with the day, Sunday, that Jesus came out of the grave (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19). The last two deal with the day, Sunday, that Christians assembled to worship God (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2).

In our modern world, many people do not take the time to worship God on Sunday. They are busy, busy. Often their Sundays are spent for their own pleasures with no thought given to assembling for worship. Friend, if you are like this, it’s time for you to put the “first” back in the “first day”.

As just mentioned, many today no longer put the “first day of the week” first in their life. They spend it lounging around, doing yard work, engaging in some hobby, going shopping, etc. Do you know that there was a time in this country when most businesses were closed on Sunday? It’s true. They were closed to give people time to “go to church”. There were actually “blue laws” that once existed in this country

to limit secular business activities on Sunday. Can you believe it? And, do you remember when most people went to work just five days a week? Not anymore.

So, how can you put the “first” back in the “first day of the week”? Well, you can seek “first” the kingdom of God which includes assembling on Sunday for worship. Jesus said, “seek ye first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

Next, you can love God with all your heart, soul, and mind which includes assembling on Sunday for worship. Jesus said, “This is the great and first commandment (Matthew 22:38).

Finally, you can give yourself first to the Lord which includes assembling on Sunday for worship. Paul wrote about the Macedonians of his day this way: “first they gave their own selves to the Lord” (2 Corinthians 8:5).

The “first day of the week” is not the Old Testament Sabbath day, or Saturday. The Old Testament Sabbath was for the Jews of the Mosaic dispensation (Exodus 31:15-17; Deuteronomy 5:2-3, 12-15). It is not for us today. The Old Testament Sabbath ended with Jesus dying on the cross (Colossians 2:14-17). Today, under

the New Testament, the day of worship is Sunday.

The writer of Hebrews tells Christians that they are not to forsake the first-day assembly (Hebrews 10:25). Why? Well, this day is extremely important. Jesus was resurrected on the first day (see scriptures above), the disciples assembled on this day (John 20:1, 9), the Lord’s church was established on the first day (Acts 2:1,42; see Leviticus 23:15-21), the Lord’s supper was eaten on the first day (Acts 2:42; 20:7), and a collection made on this day (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

The “first day of the week” is a great time to focus on the Lord’s death for us (1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 1:10). It’s a great time to gather with other Christians. New Testament Christians gathered on the “first day of the week” with a positive attitude and we can too (Acts 2:42,46; 20:7). It’s a great time to rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118:24). It’s a great time to give God your first fruits of self (James 1:18; Revelation 14:4).

Friend, let me encourage you to put the “first” back in the “first day”! Will we see you next Sunday?

- Chris Reeves -