

“One Thing I Do”

October 7th & 8th, 2017

Philippians 3:13-14

God is a God of “one thing!”

- ❖ “One tree” in the Garden of Eden was not to be eaten of!
“but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:17
- ❖ “One city” for Israel not to take the spoil of was Jericho! *Joshua 6:18-19*
- ❖ “One thing” Jesus directed the Rich Ruler to do ...
“When Jesus heard this, he said to him, ‘One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’” Luke 18:22

Paul was focused on “one thing!”

“Forgetting what lies behind...”

- ❖ A Christian cannot focus on past successes or failures!
“Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’” Luke 9:62
“Remember Lot’s wife!” Luke 17:32
 - *“And as they brought them out, one said, ‘Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away.’ ... But Lot’s wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.” Genesis 19:17,26**“If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city.” Hebrews 11:15-16*

“Straining forward to what lies ahead...”

Straining: (Greek – epekteino) “stretching forward...reaching forth”¹

“Metaphor of a runner leaning forward as he runs”²

- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

2 Peter 1:5 “... make every effort ...”

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”

- ❖ The fulfillment of God’s plan for my life here on earth
“But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24
- ❖ The Crown of Righteousness
 - 2 Timothy 4:6-8

❖ “Well Done Good and Faithful Servant!”

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” Matthew 25:21

❖ Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him!

“looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2

- Jesus told Pilate that He came for “One Purpose!”

“Then Pilate said to Him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.’” John 18:37

What “one thing” is God calling you to do?

... Having a daily quiet time with Jesus?

“But the Lord answered her; ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.’” Luke 10:41-42

... Standing Firm and Praising God in the midst of an overwhelming challenge?

“You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.” 2 Chronicles 20:17

... Forgiving each other?

“bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” Colossians 3:13

... Repenting from sin?

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,” Acts 3:19-20
“From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Hosts.” Malachi 3:7

... Believing in Jesus?

“...what must I do to be saved? ... Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Acts 16:30-31

Psalm 27:4

*“One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in His temple.”*

Endnotes:

¹ Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

² Robertson, A.T. *Word pictures in the New Testament*. Nashville: Holman Reference, 2000.

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