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| Phil 3:7-21John 10:10 | Choosing to live life Fully | Pinelands – 9am – 11/06/2023Thornton – 10:30am – 11/06/2023  |

**In the Second World War…**

A **Young Soldier** and his **Commanding Officer** got on a train together. The only available seats were across from a very attractive **Young Women** who was traveling with her **Grandmother.** As they engaged in pleasant conversation, the soldier and the young woman kept eyeing one another; the ***attraction was obviously mutual.***

Suddenly the train went into a tunnel and the car became pitch black.

**Immediately two sounds were heard:**

The **“SMACK”** of a **KISS,**

**And…** The **“WHACK”** of a **SLAP** across the face.

**The Grandmother thought…**

***“I can’t believe he kissed my granddaughter,***

***but I’m glad she gave him the slap he deserved.”***

**The Commanding Officer thought…**

***“I don’t blame the boy for kissing the girl,***

***but it’s a shame that she missed his face***

***and hit me instead.”***

**The Young Girl thought…**

***“I’m glad he kissed me, but I wish my grandmother***

***hadn’t slapped him for doing it.”***

And as the train broke into the sunlight…

**The Soldier could not wipe the smile off his face.**

He had just **seized the opportunity** to…

***Kiss a pretty girl*** and ***Slap his commanding officer…***

**AND…** *had* ***gotten away*** *with both!*

Now, that young soldier knew how **SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!**

**In the same way**, we must take advantage of every opportunity

that comes our way to fulfill our purpose in life.

***“Carpe Deim”… “Seize the Day”*** Seize the moment

In Jesus said in **John 10:10…**

 ***“I have come in order that you might have life,***

***Life in all it’s fullness”***

We all want… To live a **FULL Life…**

 ***A MEANINGFUL LIFE***

 ***“Life in all it’s Fullness”***

**The Apostle Paul** writes in **Phil 3…**

How we can… **have a full, meaningful life.**

**Read… Phil. 3:7-21**

Paul shows us ***three simple tasks*** in these verses…

To help us live a more fulfilling life.

**Task 1: Find Your Purpose.**

***“What is your* PRIMARY *purpose in life?”…***

 Now we might all have a different answer to that question…

*“Be a good wife or husband”*

*“Be a good mother or father”*

*“Do my job better, Be a good teacher” etc.*

**BUT…** **Those are all secondary purposes.**

The question is what is your **PRIMARY** purpose in life?

In other words…

**“WHAT IS YOUR REASON FOR LIVING?”**

Everything in creation has a PRIMARY PURPOSE,

or a reason for existing.

**AND…**  For anyone or anything to be successful, *(Fulfilled)*

it must **fulfill** that purpose.

Here is an **Example…**

***What is the primary purpose of an ink pen?***

The answer, of course, is… **To Write.**

**So no matter**… how expensive or pretty the pen…

 Whether the pen is… made of Gold or Plastic

 Parker or a Bic

**If it does not write…** **It is useless…**It is not fulfilling its purpose.

**The same could be said for us…**

If we are not fulfilling our Primary Purpose…

 ***Are we not wasting our time?***

God has created us with a **PRIMARY PURPOSE.**

And **Paul** reminds us of that purpose…

our Reason for living…

***“I want to know Christ so that I may be like Him.”* (see vs 10-11)**

 As Christians… that is our **Primary Purpose…**

 **TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO BE LIKE HIM**

If we are true to our **Purpose…** we will find fulfillment…

And we will… **“seize the moment.”…**

 **TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO BE LIKE HIM**

**The Second Task Paul gives us is to Forget the Past. (vs 13)**

There are two elements to this task… **First: “Forget the Bad.”**

**Paul,** just like all of us had a past to forget.

He had tortured and murdered many innocent people.

He had caused a lot of pain and had done much damage

to the cause of Christ.

**BUT…** now he was **faced with a choice.**

He could either dwell on his **Mistakes** and his **Faults…**

And let them ruin his life and his ministry,

**OR…** He could **forget all about them and move on** with his life.

Know that His past has been dealt with…

He is forgiven.

Just like **Paul** had to make a choice, **SO DO WE.**

**Maybe** you’ve had… Bad experiences

Things you Regret doing or **NOT** doing.

 Recently… or Long ago…

 **But…** the memories keep haunting you

 Preventing you from **living a FULL life** today.

Many people have, and many people do…

**BUT** **we must forget the past!!!**

*It’s over, It’s done, It’s gone.*

*You can do nothing to change it.*

 Know it has been dealt with !!

**Isaiah 43:25… God says…**

 ***“I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do***

***this because of who I am.***

***I will not remember your sins.”***

**Jeremiah 31:34… God says…**

 ***“I will forgive their sins and I will no longer***

 ***remember their wrongs.”***

**God… FORGIVES and FORGETS it and moves on.**
The **Second Element** in forgetting the past…

 We must also… **“Forget the Good.”**

Many people zero in on one good period of time in their life…

and spend the rest of their lives trying to relive the past.

*High school or University,*

*When you first got married,*

*When times were not so tough…*

*Less Crime, better exchange rate,*

*When you could buy 4 chappies for 1cent.*

Surprising enough the same thing happens in the Church…

***“Remember the Good old days”*** when…

*so and so was still here.*

*There were a 100 kids in the Sunday school.*

**But…** **Paul knew** *that a good past was not enough…*

*to guarantee a meaningful future.*

In **verses 4-7** of **Phil 3…**

Paul recounts his ‘**GOOD’ past…**

 *Pure blooded Hebrew, a Zealous Pharisee,*

 *Obeyed every law…*

**But** that did not guarantee a ***meaningful future.***

**Read vs 7… *“But all those things that I might count as profit***

 ***I now reckon as loss for Christ's sake.”***

**Paul** is really saying…

***“I will not live in the past.***

 ***My reason for living is to be like Jesus,***

 ***and whatever happened yesterday, good or bad,***

 ***is now ancient history. I will live for Jesus today.”***

One thing we can know for certain is this,

***“God never consults your past to determine your future.”***
**The Third Task to help us live a fulfilling life is to…**

 **Face the Present…**

**Phil 3:13… *“The one thing I do, however, is to forget what is***

 ***behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead.”***

What is ahead of **Paul…** The finish line to the race

 It is about **the now, the present.**

**It is easy to… live in the past…**

**And it is just as easy to… dream away the future.**

**It’s a real challenge** **to face the present,**

Because it means we can no longer allow ourselves…

the luxury of saying,

*“One of these days I’ll do something about…*

*my temper ... my commitment to God ...*

*my health ... my responsibility to my family... etc*

We need to… ***“Seize the Day”***

Make use of every opportunity

We are living in very strange times…

Political Turmoil, Social Chaos,

Protests, Uncertainty,

Fear,

But Jesus says… **John 10:10…**

 ***“I have come in order that you might have life,***

***Life in all it’s fullness”***

**To live the full life…**

 We need to **Seize the Moment…**

 Seize the Present moment…

 **Not the past… Not the future**

 **BUT… The Here and Now.**

**We have a PURPOSE…**

 ***“To Know Christ that we may be like Him”***

**To Live the Full life… We must Choose to…**

 We must **Forget the past…** *The Bad and the Good*

 We must **Face the Present…**

 ***SEIZE THE MOMENT.***

**John 10:10**

The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.

**Philippians 3:7-21**

But all those things that I might count as profit I now reckon as loss for Christ's sake. Not only those things; I reckon everything as complete loss for the sake of what is so much more valuable, the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have thrown everything away; I consider it all as mere garbage, so that I may gain Christ and be completely united with him. I no longer have a righteousness of my own, the kind that is gained by obeying the Law. I now have the righteousness that is given through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God and is based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings and become like him in his death, in the hope that I myself will be raised from death to life.

**Running toward the Goal**

I do not claim that I have already succeeded or have already become perfect. I keep striving to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won me to himself. Of course, my friends, I really do not think that I have already won it; the one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above.

All of us who are spiritually mature should have this same attitude. But if some of you have a different attitude, God will make this clear to you. However that may be, let us go forward according to the same rules we have followed until now.

Keep on imitating me, my friends. Pay attention to those who follow the right example that we have set for you. I have told you this many times before, and now I repeat it with tears: there are many whose lives make them enemies of Christ's death on the cross. They are going to end up in hell, because their god is their bodily desires. They are proud of what they should be ashamed of, and they think only of things that belong to this world. We, however, are citizens of heaven, and we eagerly wait for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven. He will change our weak mortal bodies and make them like his own glorious body, using that power by which he is able to bring all things under his rule.