



Key References:

Philippians 3:12–14 (ESV) – Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Luke 9:62 (ESV) – Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 9:24–26 (ESV) – Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.

1 Corinthians 1:26–27 (ESV) – For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

Ephesians 3:20 (ESV) – Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

Isaiah 43:18–19 (ESV) – “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. ¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

1 – POSSESSION

When was the last time you had complete single-minded focus on something? After that event or life stage was complete what were you in possession of? Would you have done that thing if the possession wasn't yours at the end?

Read Philippians 3:12-14. Paul starts by talking about this possession that he is going after. **Looking at the surrounding scriptures what is this possession? What does “Christ Jesus has made me his own” mean and why was it such a driving force for him? Why is it vital that we start with this before we look towards the mission we need to carry out?**

2 – 6 TRAITS OF SINGLE-MINDED BELIEVERS

2.1 Forgetting The Past – **Why does Paul start with this? How can living in the past sabotage God's future for us? How can we heal from the past?**

2.2 Stretch Yourself – **What happens what Christians stop “straining forwards?” How can we live out our faith in this forward posture? Why did Andy say that “comfort is an enemy of the modern church?”**

2.3 Set Future Targets – **In this life what “lay ahead” for the apostle Paul? Did he have a feeling of what was going to happen to him? What are your future targets for your life? How many of them are related to God's call?**

2.4 Find The Goal – **What was the goal & the prize for Paul? When we meditate on this eternal and unfading goal what fruit does that bear in our lives? Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-26a. How can we as believers sometimes “run aimlessly?”**

2.5 Know The Upwards Call – **Why does Paul say it's an “upward” call? How would you describe the “upward call” on your life? Read 1 Cor 1:16-17. What encouragement do you get for your calling from this?**

2.6 The Authority Of Who Commissioned You – **Why does Paul end by showing that God is behind the call? How does Eph 3:20 speak to this?**

3 – HOW CAN WE STAND FIRM?

Read Philippians 3:20–4:1. **Can you pick our four hopes from here that give us the ability to stand firm in this life?**

Andy ended by reading Isaiah 43:16–19. As we heard about Nanaimo being the least Christian city in Canada **how can we pray for this new season?**