

What is Your Plan for 2023

Paul called for a...

III: _____ Purpose for all Believers: v15

The perfection of God and His plan is that in that uniqueness of His individual race for each of us, our race is designed to always lead each of us to the exact same place, which is the finish line of Christ.

Our race is designed to...

A. _____ us as a Christian

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect,

- perfect = complete
- this speaks to one's maturity ...

Our race is designed to...

B. _____ Christ's Church

...be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

The general thought is that as we run our race and we mature as Christians— all pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, our mindset should be to collectively be unified.

God's unified purpose in our individual race is that we grow towards Christ-likeness and that we be unified IN CHRIST as a church.

What is your plan for 2023? Is it to let God mature you as a Christian as your run your race? Is it to remained unified as a church, in spite of the differences in our individual races?



January 1, 2023

What is Your Plan for 2023

Phil. 3:13-15

Happy New Year! In our passage this morning, we see Paul sharing with the church at Philippi, his plan to continue to pursue Christ that he ... *may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings. (Phil. 3:10)* Paul's future was uncertain as he sat under house arrest in Rome, yet he still is writing to the church at Philippi that his plan is to stick to God's plan by continuing to run his race.

This morning, as we head his words of encouragement, the question for today is, considering that none of us knows what our future holds, what is our plan for 2023? Will we let our situations and circumstances hinder or stall our race or will we keep pursuing Jesus at all costs?

Let's be encouraged this morning by looking at Paul's plan in a time of uncertainty.

What is Your Plan for 2023

Paul's plan derived from the reality that he had an...

I: _____ **Desire**

Even though Paul was saved when he penned this book, Paul still considered something missing in his Christian life.

He was missing a ...

A. fundamental _____

Paul had many things in his background that he could point to as "achievements" in his flesh (v5). But he counted all of these things as dung as it pertained to the fundamental achievement to know Christ, the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sufferings.

We also find a...

B. familiar _____: v13

Paul viewed the Christian's life, as well as his own life and ministry, as a marathon race; not to win or achieve salvation but rather, through faithfulness and consistent service, he might win the approval, commendation, and the prize of Christ.

Do you have an unfilled desire that you *may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings?*

While ultimately, either upon our death or at the rapture, we will know Him more. But God's plan in the meantime is that through the running of our race we may know draw closer to knowing the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings.

What is Your Plan for 2023

We see in Paul an ...

II: _____ **Dedication:** v14

Now with Paul, simply running his race wasn't as important as how he ran his race and in v14 we see an unrelenting dedication.

That means that Paul understood he would face ...

A. _____

1 Peter 5:8 tells us ... ***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:***

B. the _____ to opposition

James 4:7 ... ***Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

And notice ... that's **exactly what Paul did in His own life ...**

● Paul _____ Jesus:

I press ... = pursue

How did Paul pursue Jesus ...

● by setting the _____ ...

mark = goal

What was the goal ...

● to _____... ***the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.***

The point in view is that regardless of the devil's pursuit of Paul, Paul faithfully pursued Jesus by making his relationship with Jesus his priority in life.

What is your plan to make Jesus the priority of your life in 2023?
