

Summary

Pastor Jason begins a new series called 'One Thing' focusing on how to keep God as the highest priority in life. Using Philippians 3:13-14 as the foundation, he teaches three key principles for maintaining spiritual focus: don't look back at past failures or successes, look ahead toward God's calling, and look around to choose the right influences. The message emphasizes that when we make God our top priority, He helps balance all other aspects of our lives. Paul's transformation from persecuting Christians to pursuing Christ demonstrates how God can redirect our passions for His kingdom rather than erasing them.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Help us to set aside the distractions and competing voices in our lives so we can focus on You. Lord, we pray that You would speak to each person here according to their specific needs and circumstances. Give us ears to hear, hearts to receive, and the courage to apply what You show us. We want to make You the center of our lives, so guide our discussion and help us encourage one another in our faith journey. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing you're hoping to accomplish or focus on in this new year?

Key Verses

1. Philippians 3:13-14
2. Philippians 3:4-8
3. Luke 9:62

Questions

1. Paul says he considers his past accomplishments as 'rubbish' compared to knowing Christ. What are some things in your life that you might be tempted to rely on instead of Christ?
2. Pastor Jason mentioned that we often get overwhelmed trying to treat everything as equally important. What are some areas in your life where you struggle to prioritize properly?
3. How can looking back at past mistakes or even past successes hinder our spiritual growth?
4. Paul used the same intensity he had for persecuting Christians to now pursue Christ. How might God want to redirect your natural passions or strengths for His kingdom?
5. The message emphasized the importance of choosing the right influences. How do your closest relationships either draw you closer to Christ or pull you away from Him?
6. What does it practically look like to 'press on toward the goal' in your daily life?

7. We heard 'when everything is a priority, nothing really is.' How can we develop the kind of clarity Paul had when he said 'one thing I do'?

8. What are some competing voices or expectations in your life that make it difficult to keep God as your top priority?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you need to stop looking back (whether at failures or successes) and instead focus on pressing forward with Christ. Also, consider joining a small group or finding Christian community that will help keep you accountable to making God your highest priority.

Key Takeaways

1. Don't look back - both past failures and past successes can distract us from pursuing Christ wholeheartedly
2. Look ahead - focus on God's calling and the prize of knowing Christ rather than getting stuck in the past
3. Look around - choose your closest relationships carefully because they will influence your spiritual direction
4. God doesn't erase our story but redeems it - He can redirect our passions for His kingdom
5. When God is our top priority, He helps balance all other areas of our life

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time together and for the reminder that You want to be the center of our lives. Help us to let go of the things from our past that hold us back, whether they are failures that discourage us or successes that make us self-reliant. Give us the courage to press forward toward You with the same intensity Paul had. Surround us with people who will encourage us in our faith and help us stay focused on what matters most. As we go into this new week, help us to live with the clarity of 'one thing I do' - seeking after You above all else. We trust You to balance the other areas of our lives as we put You first. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.