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**SummerFest**

**How to Exceed in the Things that Matter**

Pastor John Hampton

“When you reach my age, you'll measure your life's success by how many of the people you want to love you actually do love you. – Warren Buffett

“I’m not afraid of failure, but I am afraid of succeeding in things that don’t matter.” - William Carey

*Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never tire of reminding you of this, and I do it to safeguard your faith. – Philippians 3:1*

**We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us.**

**Trusting Jesus, following Jesus, and loving Jesus are how we succeed in the things that truly matter.**

*We put no confidence in human effort,**though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. – Philippians 3:3-6*

*I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.**Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake, I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ**and become one with him*. *I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with Himself depends on faith. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! – Philippians 3:7-11*

**A passionate pursuit of *achieving* righteousness with God based on *religion* to a passionate pursuit of *receiving* righteousness from God based on a *relationship* with Jesus.**

*Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine and learn from those who follow our example. Philippians 3:17*

**4 Stages of Paul’s Definition of Success:**

1. **Evaluation: face the facts.**

*I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection.*

*I don’t claim that I have already succeeded or become perfect.” – Good News Translation*

*Philippians 3:12*

**Successful people never stop growing.**

“The longer I follow Jesus, the more acutely aware I am of my own inadequacies, weaknesses, and failures.” – John Hampton

1. **Elimination: forget the past.**

*No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past…*

*Philippians 3:13*

**“How do I forget?”**

**While we cannot change the *moments* from the past, we can change the *meaning* of the past.**

*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, that He considered me faithful and appointed me to service. I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man; yet because I had acted in ignorance and unbelief, I was shown mercy. And the grace of our Lord overflowed to me, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*

*This is a trustworthy saying, worthy of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save*

*sinners, of whom I am the worst. But for this very reason, I was shown mercy, so that in me,*

*the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His perfect patience as an example to those who*

*would believe in Him for eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only God,*

*be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

*1 Tim. 1:12-17*

**None of us is so good that we are above the grace of God, and none of us is so bad that we are beyond the grace of God.**

* **Their Failures**
* **Their Successes**

**-my past failures fill me with condemnation and pain and make me feel inferior.**

**-my past successes fill me with complacency and pride and make me feel superior.**

**-When I live out of yesterday’s failure, I become terrified.**

**-When I live off yesterday’s success, I become satisfied.**

*Anyone who starts to plow and then looks back is no longer fit for the kingdom of God.*

*Luke 9:62*

1. **Concentration: focus on the future**

*…but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,*

*I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through*

*Christ Jesus is calling us. Philippians 3:12-14*

**The resurrection is not just a doctrinal formality that we stand by. It is a functional reality that we cling to.**

**There’s a kind of hope where you’re hoping for some *thing*,** **and** **there’s a kind of hope where you’re putting your hope in some *one.***

**When you’ve lost the *something* you were hoping *for*, have you met the *Someone* you can put your hope *in*?**

*“We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you.**All of this is for your benefit. And as God’s grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.*

*That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits arebeing renewed every day.**For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. Philippians 3: 15-18*

1. **Determination: Fight to the finish.**

“God is not opposed to effort; He is opposed to earning.” – Dallas Willard

**God is more concerned with our direction than he is with our pace.**

**Jesus has taken hold of us so we can take hold of him. That is the ultimate success in life.**

*For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.**They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control*.

*Philippians 3:18-21*