

ONE THING I DO

Philippians 3:12–14

Old saying - Jack of all trades master of none - the idea that a man can be doing a lot of things and be mediocre at most things.

Danger facing men of God and disciples today is we can approach to the will of God as just one of many things we could do - have a list in our heads- could do a lot of things in life the will of God is just part of that list.

In our text Paul makes a statement - “This one thing I do” — To be an effective disciple, man of God we must adopt this same mentality - Gods will is a priority - the one thing I do.

Philippians 3:12–14 (ESV)

¹² 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.

I. THE PURPOSE OF CALLING

A. Salvation is not all about you

1. God has a plan for each of us

a) For some you know God has called you, others the calling of God is not exactly clear yet - what does God want from my life - That's the point of these serious men classes

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

b) God views us through the lens of the future- sees the potential inside you / what you can become

2. Gods plans are not the same for every man

a) Some here today you've been saved for a while others this is all fresh and new- Gods call for some might be different than others

(1) Remember the point is God has plans for your life - it your job to seek out what that purpose is.

3. Salvation means God has a right to your life

¹² 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.

a) Paul says - Christ has made me his own / I don't belong to sin, not wearing the chains of sin any more

Romans 6:1–2 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

B. Gods plans are always bigger than where we are currently

1. This involves the unknown

a) The life we live is a life of Faith - that means we trust God even in the unknown

Matthew 4:19 ¹⁹ *Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

b) The purpose Jesus had for these men was far beyond their normal job of simply catching fish - follow me and I will make you catch people

2. This involves time

a) Reality of Calling - much of what God wants you to do is future focused- cannot be accomplished right now - takes time- its a process

(1) In essence this is what Paul is saying in our text- doing the will of God requires a commitment for the long haul - dedication and surrender to the process.

II. POTENTIAL DANGER

A. Mistaken approach to the will of God

1. The will of God is just one of many things I could be doing

a) Think about this - the creator of the universe has called you to do His will, accomplish His purposes

Luke 9:59–62 ⁵⁹ *Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” ⁶² But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

b) **What a tragedy- Jesus call to our lives does not have any sort of priority**

c) These men were not evil they simply said - what Jesus wants from my life is less important

2. I have plenty of time to do the will of God
 - a) Remember - connected to the will of God is other people - that means that there are people dying and going to hell while you delay - this should bother you
3. My past determines whether or not God can use my life
 - a) Paul in our text emphasizes something powerful here

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,

- b) What could Paul be forgetting ; Past failures, mistakes, wasted time- even past achievements

III. THIS ONE THING I DO

A. God's call requires our response

1. Paul says in our text "this one thing I do"
 - a) There was a singular focus - aiming at one thing only
 - (1) Giving your life to one thing only
2. Saying yes to Jesus means we are making ourselves available to Him
 - a) Saying yes to God means we are saying no to other things
 - b) Ask the question - do the choices I am making today get me closer to doing what God has called me to do or take me further away.
 - (1) Involves choices with your time, money, relationships, job
3. Do The Known while waiting to see the unknown
 - a) Men can struggle - *What is the ultimate will of God for my life?*
 - b) *Obedience starts with doing the small things God has already said*
 - (1) *Develop a constant daily prayer life / daily habit of reading your bible/ be in Church where God can speak to you -*

*I've been saved since I was 15 years old- almost 20 years, in the ministry almost 8 years, pastored in three different states - the vast majority of places where God has spoken to me, given me direction that has altered the course of my life **has been in church**. Not in the woods, not on the lake, not in my truck listening to a country song but its been in church where I've heard preaching and been able to respond to an altar call.*

B. The Will of God is done in connection with other people

1. Principle of Discipleship
 - a) Disciple means learner- to learn you must be willing to admit there are things you don't know - requires us to humble our pride - ask questions
2. Submission to headship
 - a) Your Pastor plays a critical part in your development as a man of God
3. The Blessing of "This one thing I do"
 - a) Your life makes eternal impact with other people
 - (1) Paul wrote 2/3 of the new testament, one of the greatest missionaries to ever live - impacted thousands of lives with the Gospel because he viewed the will of Jesus Christ as being the priority.