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12/22/2019

"ONE THING I DO"

(Philippians 3:12-17)

INTRODUCTION

When something works, we copy it. (I'm not going to copy failure)

(v17) "Brethren, join in following my example, and those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern."

1. DISSATISFACTION - (v12) "Not that I have already attained, or am already made perfect"
(v13) "I do not count myself to have apprehended"

Here's the confession of a spiritual-giant, "have **not** attained ... made perfect ... apprehended"
"I press on" - forge ahead toward a fixed goal; strain; propel; push; gut it out.

It is tragic to see Christians self-satisfied with their spiritual development.

(Revelation 3:1; 1 Corinthians 10:12)

2. DIRECTION - (v13) "but one thing I do"

Paul will not be side-tracked, distracted, or give half-hearted effort.

Someone said, "Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off the goal."

(Colossians 3:1-2) "... seek ... set your mind ..."

Jesus said to Martha, (Luke 10:42) "one thing is needful"

(Nehemiah 6:3) "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down"

(Luke 9:62) "Remember Lot's wife"

You will walk in the direction in which you are looking.

3. DESERTION - "forgetting those things which are behind"

Obviously, we remember things of the past; however, it's done not to repeat the mistakes.

"Forget" - no longer to be influenced or affected in a negative way.

Two dangers of living in the past:

- 1) We tend to remember to distraction (perhaps have many regrets hindering progress).
- 2) We tend to live off previous successes (and that loses the sense of dissatisfaction).

4. DETERMINATION - "and reaching forward ... I press toward the goal"

"Press toward" - as a hunter pursuing an animal; exert; stretch to reach.

"For the prize" - (1 Cor. 9:25) "for an incorruptible crown"

(2 Timothy 4:8) "crown of righteousness" (1 Peter 5:4) "the crown of glory"

(Revelation 2:10) "and I will give you the crown of life"

5. DISCIPLINE - (v15-17) "Therefore let us ... have this same mind ... let us walk by the same rule ... join in following my example ..."

It is not enough to run hard, we have to run by the rules: enter by the rules, start, stay on the outlined course, don't brake any rules while running, finish.

Over the years, we have about sports teams and individual athletes forfeiting the prize because it was discovered they did not contend lawfully.

CLOSE: "The dictionary is the only place where "success" comes before "work."