**BIBLE - KEYS TO VICTORIOUS LIVING**

***PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14 – TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** – In our lesson last week we talked about trials, tribulations and persecutions that we often face as children of God. In our study today we want to investigate what God’s word has to say in regard to living a life of faithfulness to the Lord in spite of these obstacles that Satan places in our path.

How can I be successful in living the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ? There was no one in NT times that faced more trials, tribulation and persecution than the apostle Paul so let’s examine some of his inspired words that he wrote in his epistle to the brethren at Philippi – **PHIL. 3:13-14 - *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus***

In these two concise verses Paul is instructing us in three things each of us as Christians should do in order to live victoriously.

***THREE THINGS EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD DO:***

1. **FORGET THE THINGS THAT ARE PAST** –
	1. Forget past difficulties
		1. **HEB. 11:24-29** – I.E. – What if Moses only dwelt on the fact that he had sacrificed his position as the son of Pharoah?
		2. **ROM. 12:1-2** - What we should be sacrificing now.
		3. **COL. 3:1-3** – We now have new priorities. What are your priorities?
	2. Forget past failure and sins –
		1. **LUKE 22:32-34** – What if Peter only dwelt on his denial of Christ?
		2. **1 TIM. 1:12-13** – What if Paul only dwelt on his persecution of the church?
		3. **LUKE 9:62** – We cannot look back if we do we will not finish the race – runners do not look back but rather they focus on the finish line. Are you focused on the past or present?
	3. Forget past attractions –
		1. **1 TIM. 6:17-19** - Worldly success.
		2. **1 JN. 2:15-17** – The worldly pleasures of sin. What attracts my attention?
2. **REACH FOR THE THINGS BEFORE** –
	1. Reach for victory –
		1. **1 COR. 9:24** – The crown or prize goes to the victor.
		2. **1 COR. 15:54-58** – Victory over sin and death. Do you have victory over sin and death? What if you died right now? Would you be victorious or defeated?
	2. Reach for success –
		1. **1 COR. 10:31** – Success for a Christian is to give glory to God!!!
		2. **HEB. 12:1** – Success for a Christian is to run the race with patience to not become discouraged. What are you reaching for in this life? Success by the worlds standards or success by God’s standard his holy word.
	3. Reach for holiness –
		1. **ROM. 6:16-19, 22** –We must come to a moment of decision and yield to God deciding to pursue holiness. Have you decided to become a servant of righteousness fro holiness?
		2. **HEB. 12:14** – We must pursue holiness or we will not see God. It must be something we desire to attain. Are you growing in holiness?
3. **PRESS TOWARD THE MARK** –
	1. Press toward the finish line –
		1. **2 TIM. 4:6-8** – The goal of all sports is to finish – Paul said it was his goal and he had reached it. The question to us is are we going to finish? Really in the end that will be all that matters.
		2. **1 TIM. 6:12** – Paul instructs Timothy and us to keep our eye on the reward so it can serve as motivation for us.
	2. Press toward faithfulness –
		1. **COL. 2:5-7** – Our walk is different from the walk of the world for it is a walk of faith.
		2. **REV. 2:10** – We must be faithful until death if we want to receive the crown of life. Are you walking by faith today? **2 COR. 5:7**
	3. Press toward heaven –
		1. **REV. 3:16** – No matter what any other member of the church is doing we must press toward heaven. Why?
		2. **1 PET. 1:3-5** – That is where the reward is, that is where the crown is, that is where our salvation will be made complete.

**CONLCUSION** –

Are you living victoriously?

If not you can begin today?

Put your sin in the past by obeying Jesus today?

Reach for the things before and press toward the finish line!