

## THE LIFE LIVED IN PURSUIT OF GOD

*Php 3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; 16 however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.*

### INTRODUCTION

THIS MORNING IS THE REVIEW OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN US, IN PREPARATION FOR WHERE WE ARE NOW HEADED. THIS MORNING IS A DISCUSSION OF THE WHAT, TONIGHT IS A DISCUSSION OF THE WHY AND 2018 IS A DISCUSSION OF THE HOW.

**WHAT:** HE PURSUED ME SO THAT I COULD PURSUE HIM

**WHY:** SO THAT I MAY RUN ON AND BECOME WHO I WAS DESIGNED TO BE

**HOW:** BY DEVELOPING AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST AND THE WORD OF CHRIST.

THIS PAST YEAR WE HAVE SPENT MONTHS DISCUSSING WHY WE SHOULD LIVE OUR LIVES IN PURSUIT OF HIM. THIS MORNING I WILL TRY AND CONDENSE THE YEAR INTO THREE PRIMARY TRUTHS.

## **1. WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST PURSUED US.**

*1Jn 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

*1Jn 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 19 We love, because He first loved us.*

## **Christmas has been a celebration of His coming to SAVE US**

## **2. HE PURSUED US IN ORDER TO SAVE US FROM SIN AND SELF**

*Php 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

-Adam's selfish decision separated us from God and the Abundant Life

-Adam's decision plummeted us into the abyss of sin and death

## **THE SECOND ADAM TURNED EVERYTHING AROUND**

*1Co 15:21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*

*1Co 15:45 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.*

### **3. THE PURSUIT PROCESS IS DRIVEN BY PURPOSE**

*Phil. 3.12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus*

**GOD'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE WAS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS CREATED BEING.**

**WE ARE CREATED TO WALK WITH HIM AND INFLUENCE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME**

My heart is hurting, people are deceitful, the Enemy is attacking me and I'm so inconsistent I can't stand myself. I hear you teaching Bishop but my flesh is scared of more fighting in 2018.

**GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON I SHOULD RUN ON....**

## RUN ON

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## INTRODUCTION

MY HEART FULLY EMBRACES THE THREE TRUTHS FROM THIS MORNING...

- HE PURSUED ME FIRST
- HE SAVED ME
- HE HAS PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE.

## **BUT WHY KEEP RUNNING IN 2018**

*13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

### **WHY RUN ON - IF I'M TIRED?**

GOD IS MY STRENGTH

*2Co 12:8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Ps. 27.1,2 THE STRENGTH OF MY LIFE

### **WHY RUN ON - IF IM SICK?**

GOD IS MY HEALER

Faith unlocks the genetic code inside me!

*John 9.6// Mark 7.32*

- HE SPITS TO HEAL

*1Pe 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*

## **WHY RUN ON - IF I'M LONELY**

GOD IS MY FRIEND

*Heb 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

LONELINESS IS MY RESPONSE TO THE ACTIONS OF MEN....MAY IT LEAD ME TO THIS REVELATION

*Ps 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

## **WHY RUN ON - IF I KEEP FAILING**

GOD IS MY DELIVERER

*Ps 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;*

*Pr 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.*

## **WHY RUN ON - IF I'M UNDER ATTACK**

GOD IS MY FORTRESS

HE PROTECTS ME WITH HIS LOVE

*Ps 144:1 Blessed be the LORD, my rock, Who trains my hands for war,  
And my fingers for battle; 2 My lovingkindness and my fortress, My  
stronghold and my deliverer, My shield and He in whom I take refuge, Who  
subdues my people under me.*

#### HE PROTECTS ME BY BRINGING ME OUT

*Ps 18:1 "I love You, O LORD, my strength." 2 The LORD is my rock and my  
fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My  
shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I call upon the LORD,  
who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies.*

#### HE PROTECTS ME BY PROVIDING A PLACE TO HIDE

**Ps 91:1** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the  
shadow of the Almighty. **2** I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my  
fortress, My God, in whom I trust!" **3** For it is He who delivers you from the  
snare of the trapper And from the deadly pestilence.