1-29-17

FireBrand Church

**Running Well**

(So Run To Win and Run To Finish)

Philippians 3:7-14

I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8  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 9  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. 10  I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead . . . 12  I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13  No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14  I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

**Increase**

Isaiah 9:7 (ESV)

Of the **increase** of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Luke 1:31-33 (ESV)

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, **and of his kingdom there will be no end.”**

Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Other Bible verses:

Genesis 1:28 (ESV)

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “***Be fruitful and multiply*** and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 17:1-2 (NIV)

 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. [2] I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly **increase** your numbers."

Genesis 35:11 (NIV)

 And God said to him, (Jacob) "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and **increase** in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body.

Isaiah 9:3 (ESV)

You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy . . .

Isaiah 40:29 (NIV)

 He gives strength to the weary

 and **increases** the power of the weak.

Luke 2:52 (ESV)

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

John 3:30 (NASB)

 "He must **increase**, but I must decrease.

Acts 6:7 (ESV)

And the word of God continued to **increase**, and the number of the disciples **multiplied** greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Ephes. 4:16 (NIV)

 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, **grows and builds** itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Colossians 1:10 (ESV)

so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, **bearing fruit** in every good work and **increasing** in the knowledge of God.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (ESV)

and may the Lord make you **increase** and **abound** in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

1 Thes. 4:10 **(KJV)**

 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye **increase** more and more;

1 Thes. 4:10 **(ESV)**

**to do this more and more.**

1 Thes. 4:10 **(NASB)**

**excel still more**,

1 Thes. 4:10 **(MsgB)**

Keep it up; **get better and better at it.**

**God is always about growing !!**

**Areas in which we can increase:**

* ***time*** with Him
* witnessing:
* **victory over sin . . .**
* the presence and power of God
* expanding the gifts He’s given us
* in our service to Him
* in our giving
* stronger marriages
* stronger relationships in the body
* more hospitable
* more generous
* more selfless
* more encouraging
* more forgiving
* **in every area !! increase !!**

1. Focus On One Thing

This requires an “**All In**” mindset . . .

* + look at your calendar

Ephesians 5:15-16 (ESV)

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16  making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

* + your check register

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 18  Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 19  By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

**All In or nothing . . . there’s really no middle ground**

Revelation 3:14-19

“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s new creation: 15  “I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! 16  But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! 17  You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

2. Don’t Look Back

3. Keep Looking Forward

4. How do I keep looking forward?

**A. I Press On**

1 Timothy 6:20-21

Timothy, guard what God has entrusted to you. Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called knowledge. 21  Some people have wandered from the faith by following such foolishness . . .

**B. To Reach The End**

Galatians 6:7-10

Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. 8  Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. 9  So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. 10  Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

Resolve

1 Corinthians 9:24-26

Don’t you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? ***So run to win!*** 25  All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. 26  So I run with purpose in every step.

Response

What have I heard from God?

What am I going to do about it?