

GOD'S SUCCESS RECIPE JUNE 3, 2018

JOSHUA 1:8

Of all the commencement exercises I've attended, I never once heard the speaker teach the graduate how to fail. Every speaker congratulated the graduates for a job well done and exhorted them to continue on their road to success. What is success? How is it defined or measured? Our text implies the answers are found in God's Word.

PSALMS 1:1-3

Life is all about choices. The Psalmist offers four.

- Counsel of the ungodly. A humanistic view of life.
- Way of sinners. A worldly lifestyle.
- Seat of the scornful. Assembling with those who mock God.
- The law of the Lord. The doctrine of God. **PSALMS 19:7-11 (NLT)**

HOW GOD MEASURES SUCCESS – MATTHEW 25:23

1. "Well done" means we have God's approval.
 - A. We can seek approval among those who hold a Humanistic view of life, live a worldly lifestyle or mock God in unbelief, or we can seek God's approval by following His doctrine.
2. "Good and faithful."
 - A. "Good." **MATTHEW 19:16-17** – Good is a term that refers to God Himself. The two servants were being praised because of these characteristics of God. **MATTHEW 5:44-48**
 - B. "Faithful." **PROVERBS 28:20 (ESV)** – God places a high premium on faithfulness. God Himself is faithful: **LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23, HEBREWS 10:23** He looks for faithfulness in us.
1 CORINTHIANS 4:2
 - To God and His Word. **PSALMS 119:9-11**
 - To family. **HEBREWS 13:4 (NLT), EPHESIANS 6:1-4**
 - With our finances. **LUKE 16:10-12**
 - At the work place. **EPHESIANS 6:5-9 (GW)**
 - To our local church. **1 COR. 1:9-10**
 - To our country. **ROMANS 13:1-2, 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4**

MAN'S VIEW VS GOD'S VIEW

1. Isaiah.
 - A. Failed to turn Israel back to God, considered himself a failure, died a martyr's death – sawed in half.
 - B. A failure in the eyes of the world, but faithful in God's eyes.
 - C. Quoted by Jesus, John the Baptist, Paul and Philip.
2. Peter.
 - A. Began to sink, rebuked Jesus. Jesus said "Get the behind me Satan", to him, denied Jesus three times, doubted the resurrection.
 - B. Peter was faithful, preached to thousands, wrote two Epistles, built up Christians and established churches.
3. Jesus.
 - A. Executed as a criminal, condemned as a traitor to the Jews, rejected by his own people, deserted by his followers. A failure in the eyes of the world.
 - B. God highly exalted him.

CONCLUSION: PHILIPPIANS 3:12-15 - Success involves: **Establishing priorities** (born again, water baptized, spirit filled, seeking the kingdom), **humility** (not that I have already attained), **submission** (Christ Jesus apprehended me), **forgetfulness** (forgetting what's behind), and **intensity** (I press on toward the mark), **focus** (be like minded).