

DON'T GIVE UP – 2
JANUARY 3, 2016

PHIL. 3:12-14

Our walk is compared to a mountain climb. Three attitudes exist. The quitter, camper and climber. The climber refuses to faint, lose heart, quit, camp or give up. His eyes are on the prize and nothing will prevent him from achieving his goal.

ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE!

1. In flying, a plane's attitude is its position in relationship to the horizon. The plane ascends or descends accordingly.
2. In life, one's attitude determines the altitude he climbs to.
 - A. Thomas Jefferson "Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude."
3. Changing one's thinking and attitude can change one's destiny.
 - A. A man who worked the sugar cane fields in Hawaii lost his job to the big corporations that took over the industry. He hadn't worked in two years. He had three children, no food, no money, was \$15,000 in debt. He was on food stamps and exhausted every means to borrow money. A minister shared **DEUT. 28:47-48** and **MK. 11:23**.
 - B. The advice.
 - Get on your knees, worship daily, praise God for who He is, what He's done and is doing now.
 - Change your attitude. Stop saying I'm broke, my equipment isn't needed, there's no work for me.
 - Get your equipment ready. Stop talking debt, start saying big corporations are giving me big jobs to fill.
 - Within five months someone from a big corporation called saying "we hear you have equipment, we need extra workers. He was given 3 six week \$80,000 contracts. Within a year, he paid the \$15,000 debt off, gave \$65,000 to the church and had \$40,000 in the bank. He had another \$80,000 contract waiting.

PAUL'S GOAL AND ATTITUDE

1. The goal. **PHIL. 3:10**
 - A. To know Him, experience Him, His character and work.
 - B. The power of His resurrection. The influence it has over human minds, the hope it gives, the truth it confirms.

- C. The fellowship of His sufferings. It was an honor to suffer shame, rejection, persecution, affliction and tribulation for Christ. To wear a crown of thorns, not just a crown of glory.
- D. Being made conformable to His death. To become the person He gave His life for me to be and do the work He called me to do.
2. The attitude. **PHIL. 3:4-9**
- A. The priority. Nothing was more important. This meant more than anything life has to offer. It absorbed all his energy, his living, breathing, thinking and existing.
- B. Humility. **PHIL. 3:12a** Despite all of his achievements physically and spiritually, he's not perfect and hasn't arrived.
- He saw Jesus, Jesus taught him, he had revelations, he was caught up to paradise.
 - **I COR. 15:9-10** He credits God's grace, not self.
3. The game plan. **PHIL. 3:12b-16**
- A. Focus. "One thing I do" represents his single-minded goal, aim and purpose.
- Success in any arena comes no other way.
 - Jesus set His face like a flint.
- B. Forgetting.
- The past. Looking back only impedes one's progress. Past successes, past failures, past hurts and offenses.
 - Paul killed Christians and set out to destroy Christianity.
- C. Move forward.
- The prize is not the olive wreath won at the ancient games, it was the crown of glory, the eternal reward of Heaven.
4. The perfect attitude. **PHIL. 3:16**
- A. The past is behind us, there's more to achieve, now walk in what you already know and press on.
- Be a true worshipper of God.
 - Be a doer of the Word.
 - Walk in love.
 - Be filled with and led by the Spirit.
 - Live by faith.
 - Serve God joyfully.
 - Be a witness to others.
 - Let your light shine.
 - Support God's work
 - Assemble with other believers.