

Our Goal – Attained Through Endurance

Introduction

1. What is a goal? Webster defines it as: "the place at which a race, or trip is ended; **an end that one strives to attain**; one's aim."
2. What is endurance? Webster defines it as: "**an ability to last, continue**, or remain; the ability to stand pain, distress, fatigue; fortitude; duration."
3. It is very important for everyone to have a goal in life that they are striving to attain.
 - A. Without a goal, our life will have **no direction. Nothing to live for.**
 - B. Once we have established what our goal is, then we must be determined to endure whatever it takes to attain it.
 - 1) If not, we will never attain our goal!
4. It is refreshing to see one's determination in life to reach their goal: DAN JANSEN
 - Calgary 88 Olympics - fell (sister died) (NO GOLD)
 - Albertville 92 Olympics - did not do well (NO GOLD)
 - Lillehammer 94 Olympics - slipped, then won GOLD!!
 - A. Heb 10:32 - A verse that may apply to his life.

Hebrews 10:32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

5. **A Christian's goal should be **heaven** and we should be determined to reach our goal no matter what it takes - because we understand that we are a chosen race!**

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

6. **Jesus had a goal in his life while on this earth and we should use Him as our example.**

Hebrews 12:1-3

- A. **All of us need to have endurance to reach our goal.**

Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that **after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:**

Our Endurance Is Constantly Being Tested

1. **How much are we willing to endure to reach the goal we have set before us?**

James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

2. **Jesus' faith was being tested by Satan, yet he endured to the end.**

Matthew 4:1-11

3. **Job was in much distress - yet his faith remained loyal. He endured all for God.**

James 5:11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

4. **How long was Moses willing to endure all the things God had entrusted him with? He was tested, yet endured it because his goal was firmly rooted.**

Hebrews 11:24-27

We must Practice Endurance

- 1. It takes a lot of patience and dedication to reach our goal. That is why we need to continue to practice enduring all, to reach our goal.**

1 Corinthians 4:12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;

- A. Sincere Love of our goal will let us endure.**

Revelation 2:3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

Results of Endurance

- 1. Any goal really worth reaching is worth enduring. As Christians, we are promised salvation if we endure.**

Matthew 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

2 Timothy 2:12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

- A. What is that perfect result? To the Olympian - it's the Gold medal**

-- To the Christian, it is being with Christ forever!!

Continue to Press Toward the Goal

1. **It is so important that as Christians we establish our goal of getting to heaven - and then don't let anyone or anything interfere with us getting there.**

- A. **We need to run our race with great endurance!**

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2. **Paul said:**

1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

- A. **That verse tells us that we should be striving for our goal as a runner does in a race - to WIN!**
 - B. **The Olympian competes to gain a perishable reward, the Christian competes for eternal life!**

1 Corinthians 9:25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, **but we for an imperishable crown.**

- 1) **Which do you think is more important?**

- 2) **One will rust, the other will not!**

- a. **Our manner of life tells others what is important to us.**

3. **Jesus said:**

Matthew 6:19-20 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; **but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Conclusion

- 1. Endurance is one of the hardest tests of life.**
 - A. Many would-be Olympians have faded away because of a lack of endurance.**
 - B. Many Christians have fallen away because of a lack of endurance.**
 - C. Many new Christians are zealous for the Lord initially, then quickly revert back to their worldly life because of a lack of endurance.**

- 2. But why?**
 - A. Because they did not truly have a goal firmly implanted in their mind. Heaven was only a word, not a reality.**
 - B. Heaven is real; Hell is real. All of us will eventually achieve one of these in the end.**

- 3. I Want to encourage you this afternoon to be determined to establish your goal in life - to spend eternity in Heaven, no matter how much you may have to endure to get there!**
 - A. You can do it!**

