



## RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT

**Philippians 3:12-14 NIV:** Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

### LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

We've been learning how important it is that as we come out of this time of "Exile" for us to "Renew our Mind" because what we think determines how we act and we need our thinking to be right - in line with God's Word - and not filled with fear, but with faith. We learned last week that because this quarantine has been exhausting in so many ways, that we also need to "Renew our Strength." We learned that by actively waiting on the Lord, we can discover how to walk with the Spirit, so that we can run after opportunities or away from deceptions and not faint, plus we will even be able to overcome difficulties and trials like the eagles, who are able to soar above the storms they encounter. This week, we'll see that it's also important for us to "Renew our Commitment" to God and to the purpose that He has designed for us to fulfill.

### **Read Philippians 2:7-11:**

1A) By looking at the context for our focal passage, how does Paul reveal in these verses that he was satisfied with his Savior, his Salvation, and his opportunity to Serve?

1B) PERSONAL: Describe the level of your satisfaction with your Savior, your Salvation, and your opportunities to Serve.

### **Read Philippians 3:12:**

2A) What was Paul dissatisfied with?

2B) PERSONAL: What types of things do you see other people doing to try to find satisfaction?

What about you personally - what things have you tried to find satisfaction?

2C) PERSONAL: How well does this seem to be working for you or for others? Why or why not?

3A) According to Philippians 3:12-13, what did Paul say that he was doing?

3B) PERSONAL: How are you encouraged by the fact that the Apostle Paul had to figure out how to find true satisfaction too?

4A) Explain the difference between the “general” will of God and His “specific” will for us as individuals.

4B) How do the following verses help us understand God’s will for all mankind?

2 Peter 3:9:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

5) PERSONAL: Do you feel like you are “dialed in” to your purpose according to God’s individual will for you? If you’re not sure what your purpose is, spend some time this week asking God to clearly reveal His “specific” will for you and then write out a statement of promise or commitment to follow His will.

### Read Philippians 3:13:

6A) What did Paul say was necessary to do to focus on achieving God’s will in your life?

6B) PERSONAL: Consider your past and determine if you have come to a place where you can “refuse to recall” the pain of the following things. Have you allowed your heart to heal from:

Past grudges?

Past guilt?

Past grief?

Past glories?

7A) In Philippians 3:14, how do you see that Paul was not only determined to do God’s Will, but that he had direction?

7B) What does Hebrews 12:1-2 tell us that confirms the importance of “renewing our commitment?”

**ACT:** As followers of Jesus Christ, we have purpose! God’s will involves His general will for all believers, but also His specific will for each of us individually. We need to focus on His general will and obediently follow Him, so that we can discover the specific will He has designed us to fulfill, which will bring us true satisfaction and joy. We will find that our desires will align with our design to accomplish this purpose. Part of this focus involves straining toward or pressing on toward the goal - the calling that God has put on our lives. Every part of the body is important and every person who is part of the Body of Christ has a “calling” - a “purpose” that we were created to fulfill. So it’s time for us to each “Renew our Commitment” to Christ and to His Will!

**Daily Devotional:** It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- Every day this week let's look at passages that describe the purpose God has for all mankind and that He has for specific people.

## **Monday:**

### **Psalm 57:1-3 NLT**

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection. I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until the danger passes by. I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me. He will send help from heaven to rescue me, disgracing those who hound me. My God will send forth his unfailing love and faithfulness.

## **Tuesday:**

### **Proverbs 16:3-4 NLT**

Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed. The Lord has made everything for his own purposes, even the wicked for a day of disaster.

## **Wednesday:**

### **Proverbs 19:21 NLT**

You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail.

## **Thursday:**

### **Isaiah 44:8 NLT**

Do not tremble; do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim my purposes for you long ago? You are my witnesses—is there any other God? No! There is no other Rock—not one!"

## **Friday:**

### **Ephesians 3:10-11 NLT**

God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Saturday:**

### **Philippians 2:1-5 NLT**

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

## **Sunday:**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:4 NLT**

For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.

