

1-8-2025 "Give Me Jesus"

We all seek many things. We take joy and pride in many things. But what would 2025 look like if we prioritized Loving Jesus as the #1 priority?

Would we find that Jesus is enough? Or would we arrive at year end wishing we had prioritized something or someone else?

Would we find joy and peace and life in seeking Jesus first? Or would we miss out on what the world has to offer and leave us with regret?

Paul, had bet the farm on finding life and fulfilment in his religious performance as a Pharisee, and he had been a rock star (Philippians 3:4-7).

But once Paul experienced Jesus, he re-evaluated his life choices.

Movement 1... Read & reflect **Phillipians 3:7-13 MSG**

7-9 The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I'm tearing up and throwing out with the trash—along with everything else I used to take credit for. And why? Because of Christ.

*Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. **Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master**, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung. **I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him.***

I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ—God's righteousness.

10-11 I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all the way with him to death itself.

If there was any way to get in on the resurrection from the dead, I wanted to do it.

*12-14 I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, **reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me.***

*Friends don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but **I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.***

15-16 So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. *If any of you have something else in mind, something less than TOTAL COMMITMENT, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it.*

17-19 Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times...

*20-21 But there's far more to life for us. **We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole** with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him.*

REFLECT...

⇒ Is your passion to know and follow Jesus, similar to Paul's? What kind of language would you use to describe your pursuit of knowing & loving Jesus?

⇒ What might be holding you back?

⇒ In what ways do you know or love Jesus more now than a year ago?

Movement 2... Pray like Paul for you and those Holy Spirit prompts you to pray for.

6... in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead. (Ephesians 4:6-20 NIV).

Movement 3...

⇒ Worship

⇒ Then ask Jesus what he would like you to do (habits, practices, priorities, or actions to regularly prioritize loving him wholeheartedly).

⇒ Pray your own prayer of simple dedication, or use the one following the worship links below.

CHRIST IS ENOUGH song <https://youtu.be/dEGT8lrNyyw>

GIVE ME JESUS
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbh43MGoigw>

Adapted from The Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but Yours.

Put me to what You will, rank me with whom

You will;

Put me to doing, put me to resting.

Exalted for You or brought low for You;

Let me be full, let me be empty, but most of all let me be contented in you.

Let me have all things, let me have few things, whatever you think best:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal.

And now may this commitment I have made, be fulfilled through the power of the Holy Spirit working inside of me.

I will strive to follow and keep in step, listen and obey.

Jesus transform me to be like you, to love like you loved, serve like you served and be joyfully alive with the Father like you were.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

You are mine, and I am Yours.

So be it. Amen