

Part 4 - CARPE DIEM: SEIZE THE DAY

Philippians 3:7-16

How long have you lived?

I'm not asking how long you have existed as a human being I'm asking, "How long have you really been ALIVE?" Unfortunately, many of us get so caught up in the details of day to day living that we just don't take time to seize the day and live it for all it's worth! The Bible teaches us the steps we can take to make the very best use of every day – to seize the day.

1. FIND YOUR PURPOSE.

If we want to make the best use of every day we've got to first understand why we're even here. The apostle Paul stated that his reason for living was to be like Jesus. That is our purpose too.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing his sufferings, becoming like him in death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10-11).

2. FORGET THE PAST.

To "seize the day" we have to forget the past.

... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead (Philippians 3:13).

a. Forget the bad past.

'The plans I have for you ... are ... good' (Jeremiah 29:11).

I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more (Isaiah 31:34)

b. Forget the good past.

Some people want to stay in the past because that's where they believe they were at their best. But when we do that we stagnate, even if it was a good past.

If anyone has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord (Philippians 3:4-5).

Paul is saying "I will not live in the past, even the good past."

3. FACE THE PRESENT.

...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13).

It's a real challenge to face the present because living in the present means living a life of action. If we're living TODAY to it's fullest we can't say, "One of these days ..." neith can we say, "If only ..."

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24).

I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands (Psalm 119:16).

WHAT NOW?

What step of faith is God asking you to take today? Seize the day and take the step.