

Sept 18th 2005: The Ultimate Trophy: Phil 3:1-14

I want to begin this morning.....by showing u a picture....It's a pic of....
To my mind.....that pic expresses so wellwhat Paul says in Phil 3:14....

The difference is of course the goal.....toward which each is aiming—**Prize**
Jesse Owens achieved great goals at those games.....his name lives on
But despite the earthly glory.....NO eternal value

Whereas Paul.....has claimed a prize that will never fade.....for he is with Jesus
And upon that day of reckoning....when all will have to face up to God for.....
He will be seen as free of all guilt....blame...sin....**Simply because**
He chose to live a life.....pleasing to God.....**And** he did so
..because of the gift of.....that JESUS had first given him

This morning we celebrated with our basketball team.....
For us it was a dream realised.....when we won.....AND after
hung around for the presentation



The majority of people in our society.....spend most of the only life....been given
Pursuing a goal...prize....purpose...trophy
That will at the end of their earthly life.....Prove extremely disappointing

Some will amass great wealth.....Can't take it with you
Others greatness in the sight of men.....Sporting heroes ...or....
It's God who sits in final judgment...

Next weekend many in our nation.....will watch two teams battle it out at MCG
Some will become heroes.....some villains.....**Some richer** ...poorer
Players and spectators.....emerge at the end either winners or losers
But ultimately.....achieves little

Now theres nothing wrong....with seeking to be a famous footballer....**or being** passionate about footy or cricket or.....

Theres nothing wrong about having goals in life.....like wanting to be successful
Wanting to be famous.....wanting to enjoy life to the full

But if such things are your major focus in life.....or only....

Then be aware that at the end of your earthly life.....you will be disappointed trophy
Because it wont be any help.....the other side of death

In the leaflet we gave out recently.....ON GRAND FINAL DAY

There is a quote from Shaun Hart.....(back page)

His goal as a footy player..... therebut always secondary to a greater goal
That being.....to live every day for Jesus.....**To make His life** here count for God

In Phil 3:12 Paul the Apostle says.....

I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me

His major goal in life was to be what Jesus wanted him to be.....To do what Jesus...

He looked back to the day when Jesus took hold of his life

He was on a journey to Damascus.....Pursuing his own goals in life
When Jesus met.....And Paul realised the wrong....

He saw his life as God saw it.....Like a bank account.....terribly in debit
And he knew....could not face God with confidence.....Judgment

It was then he discovered how much Jesus loved him.....Wanted to forgive him
And had a job for him to do....in this world

Its that job....that Paul now presses on to take hold of.....It became his major aim
To live a life that puts Jesus first....pleases Him....and directs others to Jesus

Are you confident about facing God when you die ?

(Joan Collins p53)

Only belief in Jesus...can give you that confidence

If He has not yet taken hold of your life.....then He wants to do so right now
And if you want to know how.....THIS leaflet will show you

(Jason Stevens is quoted as saying.....)

Many of us here.....can agree wholeheartedly with Jason remarks
We claim to be followers of Jesus

But how much effort do we put in.....to being what Jesus wants us to be
Are we pressing on toward the goal...to win the prize...for which God has called me
heavenward in Christ Jesus?

*(Been reading a book called Breakout Churches.....
Refused to be satisfied with good....but aimed at being great)*

One of the areas.....facilities and gardens.....Its import what they say about the way you
see the God you worship.....**Terry→ Because good is not enough**

*(Chippers funeral advert → Yesterday we performed the best.....
Lord I want this sermon to be the best.....)*

As believers one sign of our first love.....is that in what we do for Jesus
We are never satisfied in just doing it good.....We want to do it great

Applies to our behaviour.....our parenting.....our work
Our ministry in the church.....Our caring for others.....Our study....Prayer

Only great is good enough for Jesus

(You may remember the story about the Queen of England.....p167.....hot illustrations)

What do you need to change right now....

It may be the priority you give something.....

The time you allow for ministry

It may simply be your attitude

So that what you do for Him.....is never less than your best ??