

Goals are defined as something we aspire to be, do, or have. Take a moment to reflect upon some of the goals you have or had in your own life.

Read Acts 9:1-5

What was Paul's main goal before his encounter with Jesus?

How does this story in Acts challenge you? How does it encourage you?

***"Sometimes God will mess up your goals, to show you His glory."***

Reflect on a time in your life when you were aspiring toward a goal and God redirected your path.

Read Philippians 3:5-6

Think about various ways people build their confidence on these things

- I was circumcised when I was eight days old V.5.....RITUAL
- I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel V.5.....RELATIONSHIP
- A member of the tribe of Benjamin V.5.....RESPECTABILITY
- A real Hebrew if there ever was one V.5.....RACE
- A member of the Pharisees V.5.....RELIGION
- So zealous that I harshly persecuted the church V.6.....REPUTATION
- Obeyed the law without fault V.6.....RIGHTEOUSNESS

Read Philippians 3:7-8

Why does Paul count those things in v.5-6 as worthless now?

Read Matthew 13:45-46

Jesus tells a parable of a merchant who sold everything because He found something greater. How does this compare with the story we read about Paul?

***"Our confidence is not in our own conquest. Our confidence comes from someone else's conquering"***

As we begin 2019, reflect on these questions

- Where are your goals leading you? Closer to Christ or further away?
- How can we put our confidence in Jesus in our everyday lives?
- Like Paul, how can you forget what's in the past and continue to press on towards the prize of gaining Christ?