



**No Rivals  
in Our Redemption**

We want to safeguard the hopes of our hearts against becoming idols that disillusion us with others and divide our hearts in our walk with God.

How can we serve the Lord **together** to help prevent that **in our life as a church family**?

**Answer:** We want to be sure to ground our hopes and expectations for life and for each other in a growing love for the Lord Jesus.

How can we pursue that **together**?

Three ways we can guard our heart **in** a godly focus and **against** earthly rivals as we love God and each other:

1. **Pursue** life (seek/savor) **biblically for God's greater glory!**

Pursue God's glory and honor through prayerful hearts

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1. **Pursue life** (seek/savor) **biblically for God's greater glory!**

Do I find it good, pleasurable, and fulfilling to seek God's glory as my final end (highest goal in any situation)?

Do my prayers reflect a growing desire for God to be honored in what I say and do in each situation, above all else?

Three ways we can guard our heart **in** a godly focus and **against** earthly rivals as we love God and each other:

2. **Perceive** life (interpret/focus) **biblically for God's greater glory!**

How are you interpreting situations in your life – based on what? Where is your focus? Who are you patterning your life after? Who are you imitating? Whose approval is important to you?

- These questions get at the **contrast** of focus Paul is emphasizing.

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*"Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise." (Prov. 13:20)*

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The spiritual inertia of this life is **self-centered**.

Sin's gravity pulls us out of a God-orbit and into a **self-orbit** — **we** become the center everything revolves around.



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God tells us in His Word who **His** world revolves around, and it is not us – it's His Son, Jesus Christ.

**Self-orbit** is an illusion, a lie, a wasted pursuit into the black hole of your hope **ending in you**.

Three ways we can guard our heart **in** a godly focus and **against** earthly rivals as we love God and each other:

2. **Perceive life** (interpret/focus) **biblically for God's greater glory!**

How different might your daily life be if you were to come out of self-orbit to focus less on **your** problems and difficulties, and less on the failures and difficulties you see in **others**, and into God-orbit to focus your heart more on the Lord Jesus?

Three ways we can guard our heart **in** a godly focus and **against** earthly rivals as we love God and each other:

3. **Practice** life (live/behave) **biblically for God's greater glory!**

*"The steps of a man are established by the Lord." (Ps. 37:23)*

*"The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me..." (Ps. 138:8)*

*“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the **sake of Christ**. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of **knowing Christ Jesus as my Lord. For His sake** I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that **I may gain Christ**, and **be found in Him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes **through faith in Christ**, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that **I may know Him** and the power of **His resurrection**, and may share **His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

(Phil. 3:7 - 4:1 ESV)

*“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because **Christ Jesus has made me His own**. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God **in Christ Jesus**. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.*

(Phil. 3:7 - 4:1 ESV)

*“Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the [Christlike] **example you have in us**. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you with tears, walk as enemies of the **cross of Christ**. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.*

(Phil. 3:7 - 4:1 ESV)

*“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it **we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**, who will transform our lowly body to be **like His glorious body**, by the power that **enables Him even to subject all things to Himself**. Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, **stand firm thus in the Lord**, my beloved.”*

(Phil. 3:7 - 4:1 ESV)

“So, what is your hope? Where do you seek to find solace for your spirit when this fallen world presses down on you? Is your hope in a better marriage or a better-paying job? Does your hope reside in overcoming some issue of sin that has plagued you for years? Is it in no longer being depressed, anxious, or angry? Does your sense of hope reside in who is elected as the next president or the conservative agenda or the liberal agenda? Is it in a better school for your children?



“By what is your mind governed that shapes your perspective of hope? The potential list is endless. The reason for this rests in the fact that *our hearts are wired for worship, and our worship is directly tied to our sense of hope.*”

*(Nicholas Ellen/Jeremy Lelek)*

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