

**NEW YEAR
FOCUSING ON JESUS IN 2020
HEBREWS 12:1-3 (Vs 2); PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14**

INTRODUCTION

No doubt there will be a lot of preaching at the beginning of this year on having 20/20 vision in 2020. It is real catchy! I know of some preachers who are preaching on particular passages that happen to be the 20th verse of the 20th chapter in a number of different books. That might prove to be an interesting perspective to some for sure! But that's not how the Lord led me today.

My text is **NOT** the 20th verse of a 20th Chapter... If you were hoping for something like that, I'm sorry to disappoint you. Please turn to two passages of Scripture with me—*Hebrews 12 and Philippians 3*.

Read *Hebrews 12:1-3* first. My text verse is *verse 2* here.

The words “*looking unto*” in *verse 2* mean “*to consider attentively*” or “*to focus on*”.

The picture is that of a **runner in a race with a finish line that is set before him**. As the race begins, both **the sight and the mind of the runner is set on the goal!** We say that he is “*focused*” on the goal!

The Apostle Paul was clearly “*focused*” in his life on the goal of Christ! (*Philippians 3:7-14*)

He was a man so focused on the goal of Christ, that at the end of his life he could say in *2 Timothy 4:7*—“*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*”

**Let me ask a question for all of us to contemplate on personally:
Who or what are you focused on in your life in this New Year?**

It is important to us as Believers to make sure that we are focused on the right things (i.e. We need to have our focus where God would have it!)

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Unfortunately, for many Believers, the focus is often on a number of different things that this world is focused on rather than on the goal of Christ!

Notice in your announcements today that I have given you a couple of different handouts. One of those was the handout I used for my New Year message on last Wednesday. The other one I used in Sunday School.

The purpose of both of these is to help us get focused on the right things for the New Year! Again, where is your focus? What are you focused on? Are you focused on the right things?

Maybe at one time in your life, you were focused on the LORD and pleasing Him. But is your focus still in that direction or has something caused you to lose that focus?

Usually we lose our focus when we become distracted by something else.

When a baseball player loses his focus he cannot hit the ball or catch the ball. When a runner loses his focus he cannot successfully run his race.

When we as Christians lose our focus of Christ, we cannot successfully run the race set before us.

When we lose our focus of Christ we cannot successfully live a victorious Christian life.

So, how can we keep from losing our focus?

I. WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF WHAT CAUSES US TO LOSE OUR FOCUS AND BE ON GUARD FOR THOSE THINGS!

**A. We Can Lose Our Focus When We Get Our Eyes Off Of Jesus And On To Adverse Circumstances!
(Exp.— Peter—Matthew 14:22-31)**

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Paul had a lot of adverse circumstances in his life, but he kept his focus on Christ in spite of the adverse circumstances he faced! (*2 Corinthians 11:23ff*)

We need to understand that adversity is a part of this life in this sin cursed world!

Job 14:1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

In spite of that knowledge, even Job was tempted to lose his focus on the LORD!

Our adversary, the Devil, often uses the adverse circumstances of this life to get our eyes off of our Lord!

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Be strong in the Lord and don't fall for the lies of the Devil!

Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

B. We Can Lose Our Focus When We Get Our Eyes Off Of Jesus And On To So-Called Favorable Circumstances! (*Luke 12:16-21*)

1. Beware of open doors!

Please listen, not every open door is from the LORD!

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Also, not every favorable circumstance is good for our lives!

Satan can use both **adverse circumstances** and **favorable circumstances** to get our focus off of the LORD in our lives!

**2. Beware of the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches! (*Matthew 13:22*)
(*1 Timothy 6:6-11*)**

C. We Can Lose Our Focus When We Get Our Eyes Off Of Jesus And On To Ourselves! (*Matthew 26:31-35, 56*)

Peter AND the other disciples did this!

However, Paul kept his focus in spite of self! (*Phil. 3:4-7*)

Have you lost your focus on Jesus because of self?

D. We Can Lose Our Focus When We Get Our Eyes Off Of Jesus And On To Our Past! (*John 21:15-19*)

Satan wants us to think that because we messed up so bad in the past we can't be used of God.

Paul kept his focus in spite of his past.
1 Timothy 1:12-16

E. We Can Lose Our Focus When WE Get Our Eyes Off Of Jesus And On To Other People! (*John 21:20-22*)

Paul kept his focus in spite of others.

1) Demas the Quitter. (*2 Timothy 4:10*)

2) Alexander the Coppersmith, the Evil Worker.
(*2 Timothy 4:14*)

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Have you lost your focus because of others?

- 1) That preacher, that deacon, that Sunday school teacher, that whoever?

- 2) Someone you've respected spiritually, falls.

WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF WHAT CAUSES US TO LOSE OUR FOCUS AND BE ON GUARD FOR THOSE THINGS!

II. WE NEED TO STAY FOCUSED ON JESUS IN ALL THINGS!

A. Stay Focused On His Person!

(He is God! The Alpha and Omega!)

B. Stay Focused On His Position!

(He is the Sovereign King Of kings and LORD of lords!)
Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

C. Stay Focused On His Power!

(He is omnipotent!)

Romans 8:35, 37-39 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

D. Stay Focused On His Provision!

Matthew 6:25-34

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CONCLUSION

Where is your focus in your life?

- 1) Is it on your circumstances whether they are adverse or favorable?
- 2) Is it on yourself?
- 3) Is it on the failures of your past or present?
- 3) Maybe it is on other people?

If so, it is time to get REFOCUSED ON JESUS!

Maybe your focus is wrong because you are spiritually blind.

(2 Corinthians 4:3-4 "But if our Gospel be hid it is hid to them that are lost...)

God loves you, Jesus died for you.