

PROCLAIM & PUBLISH

celebrating faith with one voice
Nehemiah 8:9, 14-18



memorize
this:

So they published this decree and had it posted in all their cities and in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 8:15a MSG)

Do you have goals for your life? Success coach Brian Tracy says, “The ability to set goals and make plans for their accomplishment is the ‘master skill’ of success.”

What do goals look like? Are they professional or personal? Do you keep them?

points to ponder

1) Success mentor and coach, Brian Tracy, writes, “Goals enable you to do the work you want to do, to live where you want to live, to be with the people you enjoy and to become the kind of person you want to become.” Do you agree with his thoughts?

2) Has living in exile during the pandemic cause you to alter some of your goals? How so?

words to wrangle

The word that are striking in today’s passage are the words “proclaim” and “publish.” The words are often associated with verbal and written communication.

How do you proclaim and publish the validity of your faith to your closest circles? Does this relate to 1 Peter 3:15?

conclusions to consider

A primary truth in this lesson is we are to publish and proclaim our commitment to faith. How do we remember what God has done in our lives? How do you record or publish what you want to do for God?

What is your message of faith? How did you become a Christian? How is God working in your life right now?

Stephen Covey, American author, educator and businessman proposed that the goals needed to be more than just words on paper. He insisted they become habits – habits the effective people all practice. His seven habits of highly effective people has become known world-wide.

Setting goals in the Christian faith walks the perilous tight-rope between grace and works. We don’t want to fall off either side of the precarious position. The one side clamors for us to become pharisaical, keeping track of works in a way that hopes God will be pleased, and hopes that we can make our salvation sure. The other side laughs and says what we do doesn’t matter, for God will allow everyone in heaven anyway.

Rick Warren’s landmark work points us to God’s purposes for our life. Using over 1200 Scripture references, Warren boils down five purposes that explain, “What on earth am I doing here?” You are:

- 1) Planned for God’s pleasure (worship)
- 2) Formed for God’s family (church)
- 3) Created to be like Christ (discipleship)
- 4) Shaped for serving God (ministry)
- 5) Made for a mission (mission)

Some Christians take a particular trait and work on it the entire year. Others try to eliminate gaps (“This year I will be more patient.”) May I suggest forming your goals around three concepts – let’s call them “habits.” These are the general areas I want to focus on. Changing at a regular interval (three months, six months, or a year), these could be the habits of the person of faith.

