

The ULTIMATE #3
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ULTIMATE (adj): *the best imaginable of it's kind*

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, 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 is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:7-14 NIV

ULTIMATE LIFE FOR GOD INVOLVES...

- NEW _____ . (loss v. gain, worth v. garbage)
- NEW _____ . (know, gain, found in, called in "C")
- NEW _____ . (becoming like him/dying to live)
- NEW _____ . (not arrived at my goal/press on)

"All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things." Philippians 3:15 NIV

COMMON DENOMINATOR FOR ALL ULTIMATE MEN : AN ULTIMATE HOPE

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." Romans 5:1-4 NIV

ULTIMATE HOPE GIVES _____ .

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (v1)

ULTIMATE HOPE GIVES _____ .

"...through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." (v2)

ULTIMATE HOPE GIVES _____ .

"And we boast in the hope of the glory of God." (v2)

ULTIMATE HOPE GIVES _____ .

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know suffering produces perseverance," (v3)

ULTIMATE HOPE GIVES _____ .

"...perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame," (v4-5)

ULTIMATE HOPE GIVES _____.

"...because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (5)

THE BATTLE FOR GOD'S MAN THIS SECOND...

GET MY _____ RIGHT

So roll up your sleeves, get your head in the game, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives. Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God.

GET MY _____ RIGHT

You didn't know any better then; you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, "I am holy; you be holy." You call out to God for help and he helps—he's a good Father that way. But don't forget, he's also a responsible Father, and won't let you get by with sloppy living.

GET MY _____ RIGHT

It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. He paid with Christ's sacred blood, you know. He died like an unblemished, sacrificial lamb. And this was no afterthought. Even though it has only lately—at the end of the ages—become public knowledge, God always knew he was going to do this for you. It's because of this sacrificed Messiah, whom God then raised from the dead and glorified, that you trust God, that you know you have a future in God.

THE RESULT: AN ULTIMATE LIFE DRIVEN BY THE ULTIMATE HOPE

"We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV

FOR DISCUSSION

WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF SIGNIFICANCE? WAS IT ALWAYS THIS WAY?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CHOOSE A FEW STRONG PRIORITIES VERSUS MANY?

WHY CAN GOD'S MAN CHOOSE TO FULLY IDENTIFY HIS LIFE AND JOURNEY WITH CHRIST'S?

WHICH ASPECT OF ULTIMATE HOPE THROUGH CHRIST RESONATES MOST WITH YOU TODAY?

PEACE

PLACE

FUTURE

KNOWLEDGE

CHARACTER

FOUNDATION

WHAT STRUGGLE RIGHT NOW PUSHES YOUR HOPE OFF THE MARK OF CHRIST AFFECTING YOUR HEAD AND LIFE?

HOW IS YOUR HOPE IN GOD INSPIRING YOU TO CHANGE FOR HIM?

