

## The Goal of My Life—Jesus and His Kingdom

By Bob Young

*“You yourselves know how I lived among you... from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials... how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Paul, in Acts 20:18-21)*

I share a few personal reflections on one of my favorite texts, a text that I return to again and again as a polar star to guide ministry, kingdom service, and kingdom living.

I often challenge others to think about the goal of their lives. Unless we know God’s purpose for us, our reason for being, the goal of life, we do not know whether we are succeeding. Goal-setting was instilled in me from my youth.

The mini-plaque pictured has been on my desk for over 50 years. Yes, it is a bit aged, discolored, and stained; but it has been my constant desktop companion for thousands of days. Every day: Think Big! The plaque reflects Phil. 4:13—multiplied possibilities are within our grasp through Christ.

Another “think big” passage is Paul’s description of his ministry in Ephesus. Acts 20 is one of my “goal passages.” I pray that I can keep growing so Paul’s words are the reality of my ministry and my life.



My ministry and life are an open book. Across the years, I have grown, changed, matured.

Always, in ministries from Arkansas to Oklahoma to Michigan and back to Oklahoma, and in teaching and preaching across the US and around the world, I have tried to serve the Lord with humility. I remember tears and difficulties. I remember even more many precious people and the victories.

My goal has always been to testify to the gospel of the grace of God, to proclaim the message of Jesus, to proclaim the kingdom of Jesus my Lord.

I have tried to build up and not to tear down. I have sought to move ahead and not to move backward. I have tried to push every effort that will glorify Jesus and bring people to him.

I have shared the Good News of the gospel publicly and from house to house. In full-time preaching, my message was the gospel of Jesus. An eldership with which I interviewed said, “It seems like all you talk about is Jesus.” I think they meant it as a criticism, I took it as a compliment.

I have testified to anyone who would listen, seeking repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I have preached Jesus in over half of the states of the US. I have visited nineteen nations and preached Jesus in every place. I have preached Jesus online to countless people from every part of the world.

The things that are customarily thought to fulfill life do not matter.

Soon I will mark sixty years of preaching. I seek to finish the course, to complete the ministry that I have received, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. When you see my face no more, my prayer is that I will have been a faithful witness, testifying to the gospel of the grace of God.

The book of Acts begins with Luke noting that Jesus preached the kingdom during the days between his resurrection and his ascension. The kingdom came with power a few days later and the gospel was proclaimed. The gospel has never lost its power.

In the last chapter of the book of Acts, Luke writes that Paul was preaching the kingdom.

May we never tire of preaching the gospel of the kingdom!