

Refocusing our Sight in 2020

Part IV

Today we complete the last of our series in word studies that will help keep our focus on Christ through the year. I hope and pray that this has been helpful to you and that you will use it throughout the year.

One Thing (Luke 10:42; John 9:25; Philippians 3:13; Mark 10:21). These "one thing" statements show us that we are to be focused and what we are to be focused on. They show focus in several areas in particular:

- 1) Focus in Possession (Luke 10:42; Mark 10:21)
- 2) Focus in Action (Philippians 3:13, 14)
- 3) Focus on Acknowledgment (John 9:25).

Jesus said that Mary was focusing on that "one thing" that was needed, to hear and obey His Word. He shows again the awful consequences for not focusing on the possession of His Word when He tells the rich young ruler, "one thing you lack." It is indeed a sobering thought to realize that just one thing lacked can cause us to go away sorrowful on the Day of Judgment. We need to focus on the one needful thing, make it our focus in possession, lest we be found lacking one thing. Paul refers to focus in action when he says, "one thing I do." He was not willing to let things that he had left behind hold him back in his onward march toward the goal that is in Christ. His focus was straight ahead. Jesus said those who have put their hand to the plow and then look back are not fit for the kingdom (Luke 9:62). We need to make sure that we are pressing on, focusing on Christ and being found faithful in Him. We also must have a focus on our acknowledgment. When the blind man was questioned about the one who had healed his sight, he was able to say, "one thing I know." He knew that the One who healed him was from God (John 9:33). Every indication is that he knew exactly what would happen if he proclaimed that Jesus was from God (John 9:22) and yet he was focused on his acknowledgment. Paul said that he was not ashamed to suffer for the Gospel because he knew Him in whom he believed (II Timothy 1:12). The only way we will be able to have such focus in our acknowledgment is by having an unwavering faith that Jesus is who He said He was, the Son of God; the Christ.

There are many more biblical words that we could discuss on this point of being focused. This very well may be the greatest need of the church in our age, greater focus on the part of Christians to being Christians. We often say that we have a great need for more faithful elders, for more faithful preachers, for more faithful teachers, etc. But, if we were more focused on the task at hand, being Christians, then all these things would just fall into place.