



Focus =

Future

LOT'S WIFE





Perfect New Years' Passage

Philippians 3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the **surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes from God* by faith



Knowing Him is POWER

- ¹⁰ that **I may know Him** and the **power of His resurrection** and [f]**the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death**; ¹¹ [g]in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.
- ¹² Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, **but I press on** [h]**so that I may lay hold of that** [i]**for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.**



The Past is Passed

¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: **forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,** ¹⁴ **I press on** toward the goal for the prize of the **upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**




To Sum Up so Far

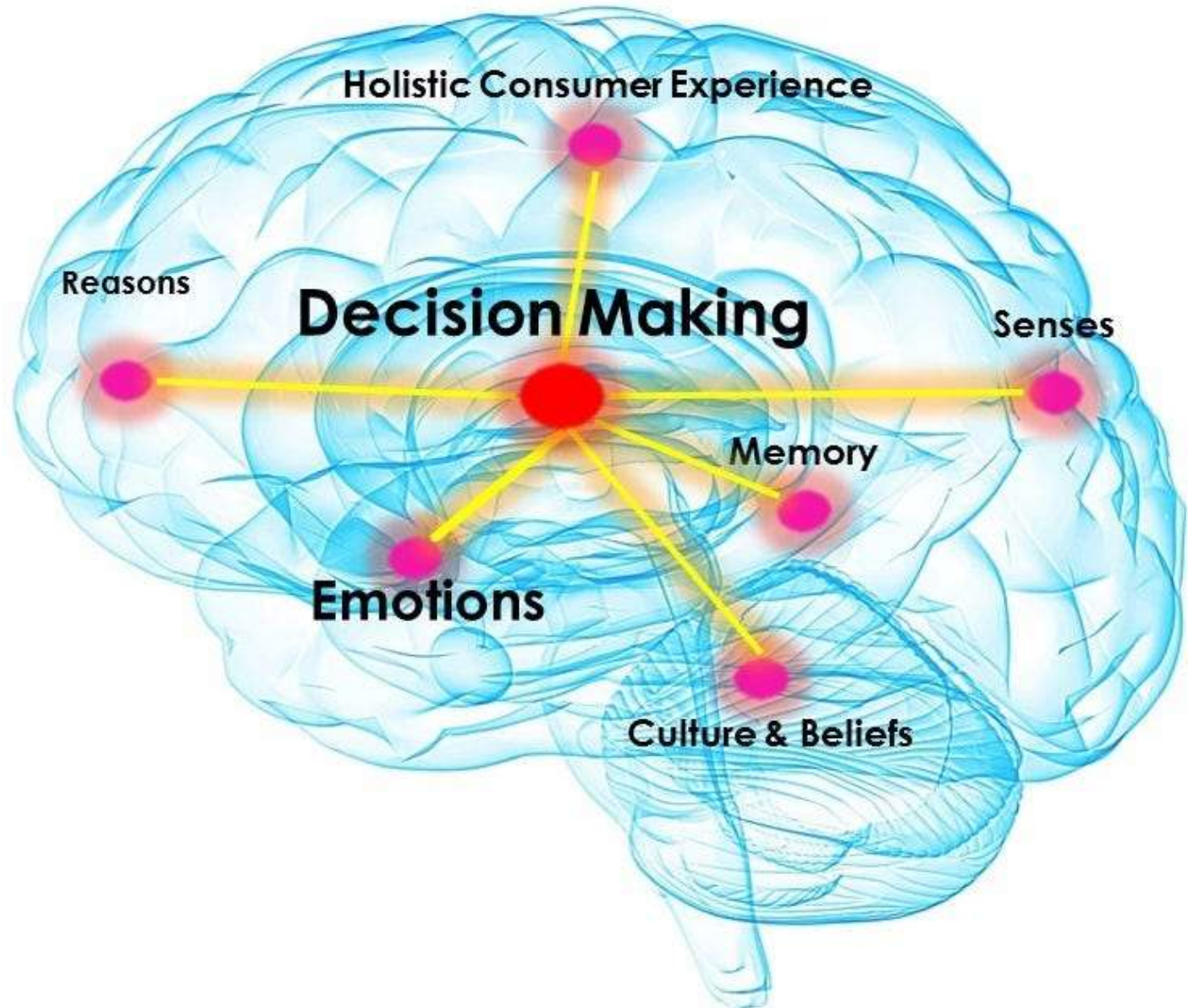
- I think what Paul is saying here is that what you focus on is very important in determining the direction of our lives, so just to be clear
- Tell me in your own words what Focus means



FOCUS = FUTURE!!!

- What you FOCUS ON influences your ...
 - EMOTIONS, and your emotions affect ...
 - Your ATTITUDE, and your attitude molds ...
 - Your DECISIONS, and your decisions impact ...
 - Your Direction, and your direction ...
 - **Determines your**
outcomes and results
- 

ALL Decisions are Emotional



**Keep Your Focus On
Where You Want To Go**





Paul Had a Clear Focus

- KNOW Jesus = surpassing value
- Found IN HIM
- Secure in righteousness by Faith
- Which is How I KNOW Him
- Resurrection Power (Romans 8:11)
- Share in His sufferings
- Conformed to His Death
- Pathway to Resurrection



Clear Strategy

- Forget what lies behind,
good or bad, success or
failure, victory or defeat
- Reaching forward to
(**FOCUS ON**) what lies
ahead





The Power of Calling

I PRESS ON BECAUSE I KNOW I HAVE AN UPWARD CALL, A HIGH CALLING, AN ASSIGNMENT AND A DESTINY AND A PURPOSE AND I AM NOT THERE YET, BUT HE IS NOT FINISHED WITH ME YET AND WHAT IS COMING IS MORE GLORIOUS AND BEAUTIFUL THAN ANYTHING I HAVE YET EXPERIENCED AND I WILL NOT STOP UNTIL I HAVE FULFILLED THAT FOR WHICH I WAS MADE BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD!!!!



Happy Almost New Year

- So, this is the last day of 2023, and tomorrow starts a year that could very well be your year of destiny.
- **Where is your focus;** where are you going to invest your spiritual and emotional and mental attention?
- A lot of people will keep staring at **the WALL** – their fears and shame and anxieties and weaknesses and failures and disappointments
- But even if 2023 was pretty good, it is OVER



What Will Your Focus Be?

- You still have a destiny to fulfill and a calling from on high to pursue, by his grace and through his power
- Do you have any idea today what it even is???
- Not too late to ask him to point you in the right direction. Just spend time with him and listen instead of doing all the talking.
- You'll know it is him if it is bigger than you and sounds crazy and exciting at the same time
- STOP focusing on you and make more room in your life for him!!



Be Like the Wise Men

- My Daughter, Penny, in a recent article in the Abilene Reporter-News, wrote an article about Epiphany
- Celebrated on January 6 to end the 12 days of Christmas, marks the appearance of the Wise Men, who asked ...
- Where is He who has been born King of the Jesus?
- They didn't assume they knew everything about Him already, they wanted to be where He was and worship Him



While You are Waiting, Focus

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is [e]lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, [f] **dwell on these things.** ⁹ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.



Merry Christmas, YOU ARE

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY
- **WHAT A WONDERFUL LIFE!!! \O/**