

The First and Final Word

Pastor Toby • Week 1 • 2/27/2022

The One Thing

Revelation 2:1-5, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Introduction: What I want the most is to be spiritually successful, but how does GOD define success?

Is Spiritual Success...

- Hard _____? (Revelation 2:2a)
- Doctrinal _____? (Revelation 2:2b)
- Refusing to _____? (Revelation 2:3)

Answer: _____. Success = _____.

Are you sure? What about...

- Spiritual _____ and _____? (1 Corinthians 13:1)
- Deep spiritual _____? (1 Corinthians 13:2a)
- Mountain-moving _____? (1 Corinthians 13:2b)
- A willingness to _____ it all? (1 Corinthians 13:3)

Answer: Without _____, we are _____ and gain _____.

Conclusion: Are you successful according to God's definition? Is loving Jesus the "bullseye" of your target? If not, why not?

Icebreakers:

1. Name someone you think of as "successful." What makes them successful?
2. Can you name a moment when you felt "successful"? What did you do that caused you to feel that way?

Sermon Summary: We all long to be "successful," but it's important to understand how **God** defines success. While we might be tempted to think that success = obedience (or discipline), God has defined success as loving Him. If this is true, our goals and pursuits must change.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Revelation 2:2-5 together. Is it easy to define spiritual success in terms of how busy we are or how hard we are working for Jesus? Why do you think we're drawn to these alternatives to loving Jesus?
2. Is Jesus saying that it isn't important to work hard, persevere in your faith, or have spiritual discernment? If not, what IS he saying about these activities?
3. Once you realize that you no longer love someone as you once did, how can you get back to "the love you had at first"?
4. Why is Jesus so demanding on this issue? Why does He value love so much?
5. Is there a difference between aiming for love and aiming for obedience (or discipline)? If so, what is it? If not, how are they the same?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 together. What would motivate you to "give away all you have" or to "deliver up your body to be burned" if it's not love?
7. How can we learn to recognize the times in our lives when we have replaced "love" as the goal of our lives with something else?