

GOAL, GOALS, OBJECTIVE, OBJECTIVES

In the days immediately after the Flood, God didn't want people to be able to do whatever they imagined. He wanted to prevent them from carrying out their **goals**.

- **Genesis 11:6-7:** "And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

The reason Samson married a Philistine woman was to find an occasion to attack the Philistines. That started a chain of events that eventually led to a Philistine army entering Judah to capture him (which meant Samson accomplished his **objective**.)

- **Judges 15:9-10:** "Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi. And the men of Judah said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us."

There are times when it's God's will for something to be done, and the angel He sends to carry out His will is the one who can present Him with a plan that will successfully accomplish His **objective**.

- **1 Kings 22:19-22:** "And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand

and on his left. And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so."

There are times when wicked plans accomplish their **objectives**. (It was very wicked for Asa to rob God's temple to pay Benhadad to fight against Israel, instead of asking God to save them. However, Asa's plan worked.)

- **2 Chronicles 16:1-5:** "In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the Lord and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying, There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me. And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali. And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease."

There are times when the wicked succeed in using lies to

harm God's people. Sometimes the lies of wicked people accomplish their **objectives**. (When the enemies of the Jews lied about what the Jews were doing, the king believed them. They immediately stopped the Jews from rebuilding the temple, and the work ceased for a long time after that.)

- **Ezra 4:23:** "Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power."

It's good to pray that God would cause the wicked to be disappointed, and that they wouldn't achieve their **objective** of hunting down the righteous and destroying them.

- **Psalms 17:13:** "Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword:"

In order to achieve a **goal** you need counsel.

- **Proverbs 15:22:** "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."

Even though the proud may join forces to accomplish their **goals**, they won't go unpunished.

- **Proverbs 16:5:** "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished."

It's good to labor, but it's unwise to try to get rich. Getting rich shouldn't be our **goal** in this life.

- **Proverbs 23:4:** "Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom."

If your **goal** is to build something that will be remembered, you will fail. Generations don't remember history.

- **Ecclesiastes 1:11:** "There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after."

When Daniel didn't want to eat the food that was given to him, he approached the situation very carefully. He was humble, he talked with those who had authority over him, he addressed their concerns, and he worked within the system to achieve his **goal**.

- **Daniel 1:10-13:** "And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king. Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants."

Demons fight one another for control. They're not all on the

same team, and they're not all trying to achieve the same **objective**. (The princes of Persia and Greece were different demons, and they were going to battle one another for control of the world.)

- **Daniel 10:20:** "Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come."

God's ultimate **goal** is *not* to destroy Israel. Instead His plan is to save the Jews.

- **Amos 9:11-12:** "In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the Lord that doeth this."

God is against those who pursue **objectives** using evil means.

- **Habakkuk 2:12:** "Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!"

One of the **goals** of confronting people who sin against you is mending the relationship that was broken by that sin.

- **Matthew 18:15:** "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother."

If someone sins against you personally, and you talk to them and they repent, then you've resolved the situation. The **goal** is to get them to repent.

- **Matthew 18:15:** "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother."

If someone sins against you personally and they won't repent, the next step is to get more people involved. The **goal** is to get them to repent.

- **Matthew 18:15-16:** "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established."

The person who plants the seeds of the gospel is on the same team as the one who waters those seeds. They're partners in Christ and are working toward the same **goal**.

- **1 Corinthians 3:8:** "Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour."

Paul's **goal** in his interactions with others was to meet them where they were and preach the gospel to them, so that they might be saved.

- **1 Corinthians 9:22:** "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that

I might by all means save some."

We must seek to save those who are lost. That means we must be willing to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to preach the gospel to them. Our **goal** in this life must be the salvation of others, not our own pleasure.

- **1 Corinthians 10:33:** "Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."

When Paul planned on visiting the Corinthian church, he sent people ahead of him. The **goal** was for them to collect an offering from the Corinthian church in advance, so that when Paul arrived everything would be ready (and no offering would have to be taken while he was there).

- **2 Corinthians 9:4-5:** "Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting. Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness."

When Paul talked about his vision of Heaven, he referred to himself in the third person. He wanted to defend his apostleship and make it clear to the Corinthian church that God had given him revelations that were far beyond anything his enemies could claim. However, he told this story in a very humble way because his **goal** was to defend himself, not glorify himself.

- **2 Corinthians 12:1-2:** "It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven."

The **goal** of Christians should be perfection. We must not be content with anything less.

- **2 Corinthians 13:11:** "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Our **goal** in this life must *not* be to please men. Instead it must be to please Christ.

- **Galatians 1:10:** "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

Paul taught that we must sing *to the Lord*. Our audience is God, not other people. When we sing hymns of praise, our **goal** must *not* be to sing to an audience in order to obtain their admiration.

- **Ephesians 5:19:** "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

The reason we need to put on the armor of God is to protect ourselves against the devil's attacks. Our **goal** is to *protect*

ourselves, not to somehow defeat the devil. (God will defeat the devil in due time.)

- **Ephesians 6:13:** "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Paul's **goal** in preaching the gospel was to make everyone perfect in Christ Jesus.

- **Colossians 1:28:** "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:"

It's wrong to seek glory from others. That must not be our **goal** or desire.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:6:** "Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ."

Paul's **goal** was to strengthen the church so that it could endure afflictions.

- **1 Thessalonians 3:3:** "That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto."

Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to focus on faithfulness and pleasing God. He didn't suggest the church could sacrifice those **goals** to grow and attract new members.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:1:** "Furthermore then we beseech you,

brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more."

The requirements that Paul lists for church leaders aren't **goals** that they should strive to meet. Instead they're the basic requirements for being a church leader. Those who don't measure up to those requirements are disqualified from leadership and aren't allowed to serve.

- **Titus 1:7-9:** "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

Paul didn't say it was good to form alliances with deceivers and work with them toward a common **goal** like feeding the poor. Instead the apostles taught that the church *must* separate itself from such people and sharply rebuke them.

- **Titus 1:10-13:** "For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, the Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;"

One of the **goals** of the devil is to destroy the church so that it

can never rule over the nations. (In this passage, the child that the devil seeks to destroy is the church.)

- **Revelation 12:4-5:** "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."