

3 THINGS TO GROW IN 2023

PHILIPPIANS 3

DSP MELVIN GAN

15 JANUARY 2023


2023 a year of
personal growth

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. 2 Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh.
3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—



Philippians 3 (NIV)

4 though I myself have reasons for such
confidence. If someone else thinks they have
reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have
more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the
people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a
Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a
Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the
church; as for righteousness based
on the law, faultless.



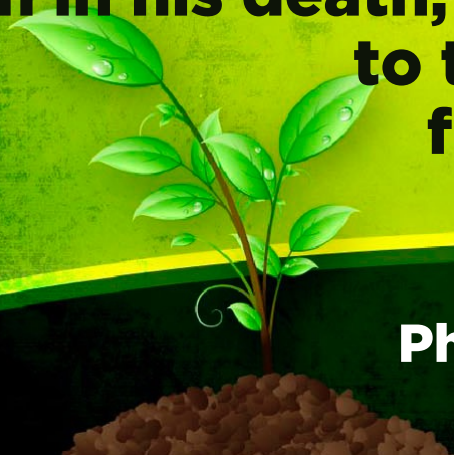
Philippians 3 (NIV)

7 But whatever were gains to me I now
consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is
more, I consider everything a loss because of
the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus
my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I
consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ



Philippians 3 (NIV)

9 and be found in him, not having a
righteousness of my own that comes from the
law, but that which is through faith in Christ—
the righteousness that comes from God on the
basis of faith. 10 I want to know Christ—yes,
to know the power of his resurrection and
participation in his sufferings, becoming like
him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining
to the resurrection
from the dead.



Philippians 3 (NIV)

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or
have already arrived at my goal, but I press on
to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took
hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not
consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.
But one thing I do: Forgetting what is
behind and straining toward what is ahead,



Philippians 3 (NIV)

14 I press on toward the goal to win the
prize for which God has called me heavenward
in Christ Jesus. 15 All of us, then, who are
mature should take such a view of things. And
if on some point you think differently, that too
God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live
up to what we have already attained.



Philippians 3 (NIV)

17 Join together in following my example,
brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as
a model, keep your eyes on those who live as
we do. 18 For, as I have often told you before
and now tell you again even with tears, many
live as enemies of the cross of Christ.



Philippians 3 (NIV)

19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their
stomach, and their glory is in their shame.
Their mind is set on earthly things. 20 But our
citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await
a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
21 who, by the power that enables him to bring
everything under his control, will transform
our lowly bodies so that they will be like
his glorious body.



Philippians 3 (NIV)

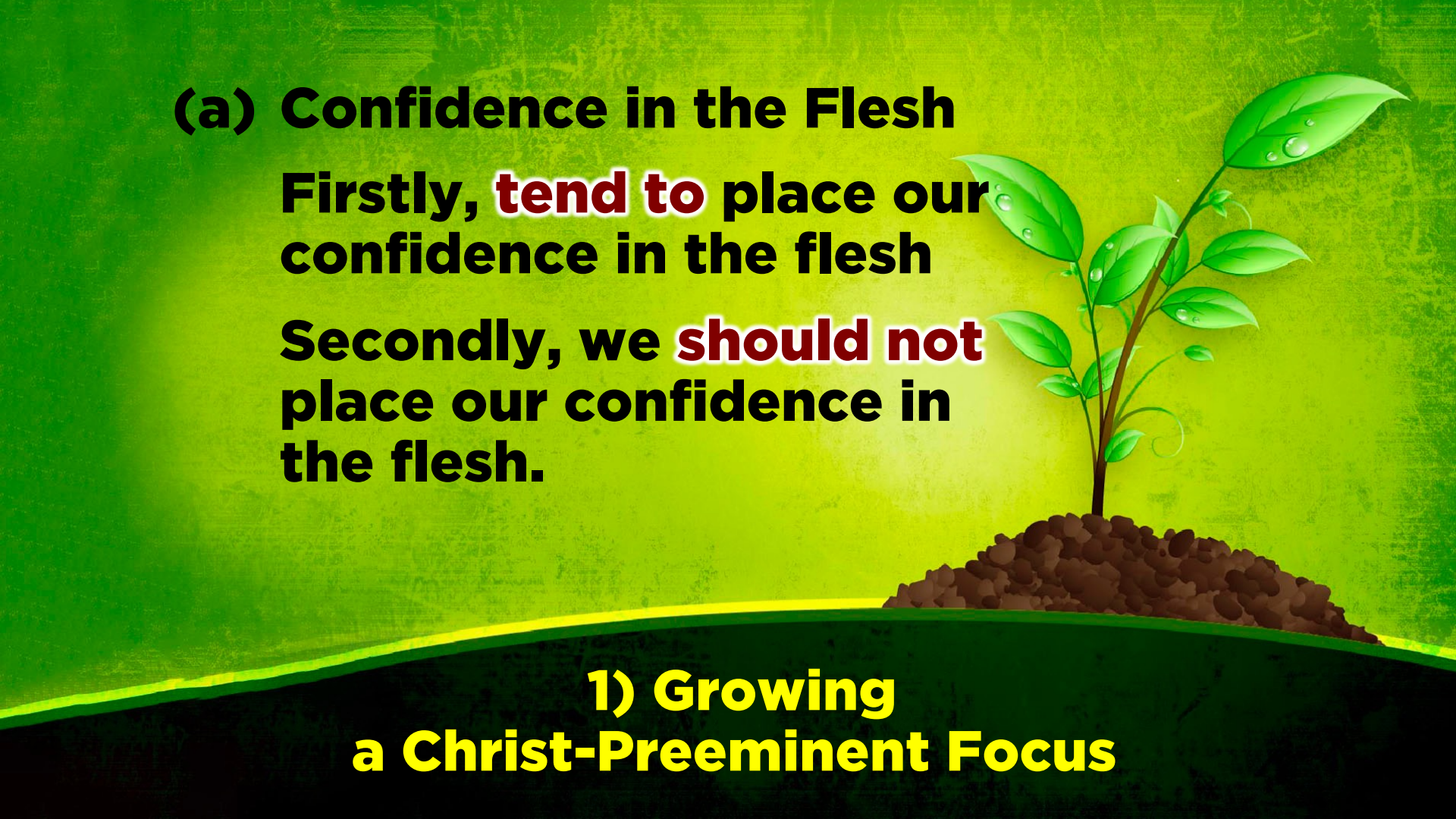
Roadmap

1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus

2) Growing Perseverance in our Race

3) Growing in Leading Spirit-led Lives




(a) Confidence in the Flesh
Firstly, tend to place our confidence in the flesh
Secondly, we should not place our confidence in the flesh.
1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus

(a) Confidence in the Flesh

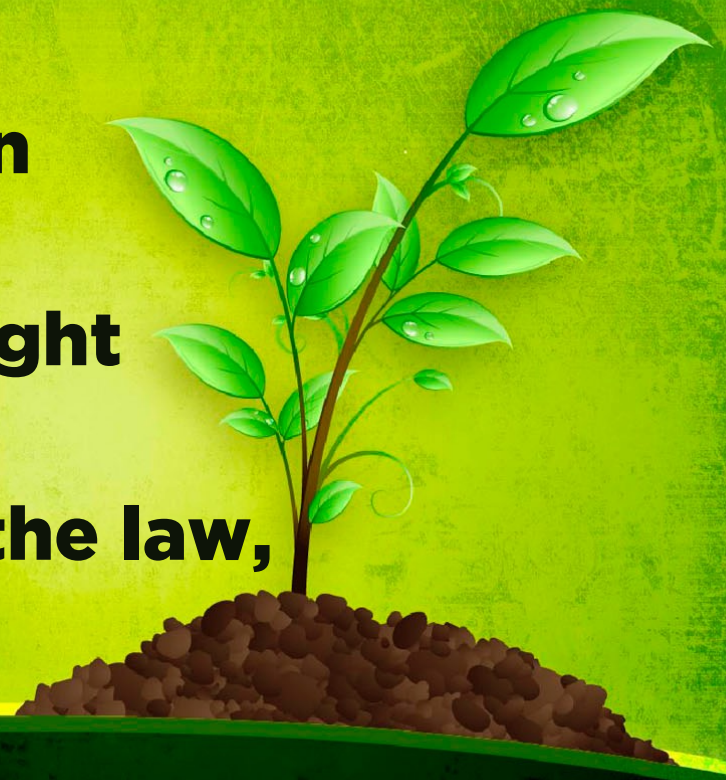
This is why we need to have a Chris-preeminent focus instead, because a Christ-preeminent life is the direct opposite of a flesh-directed life.



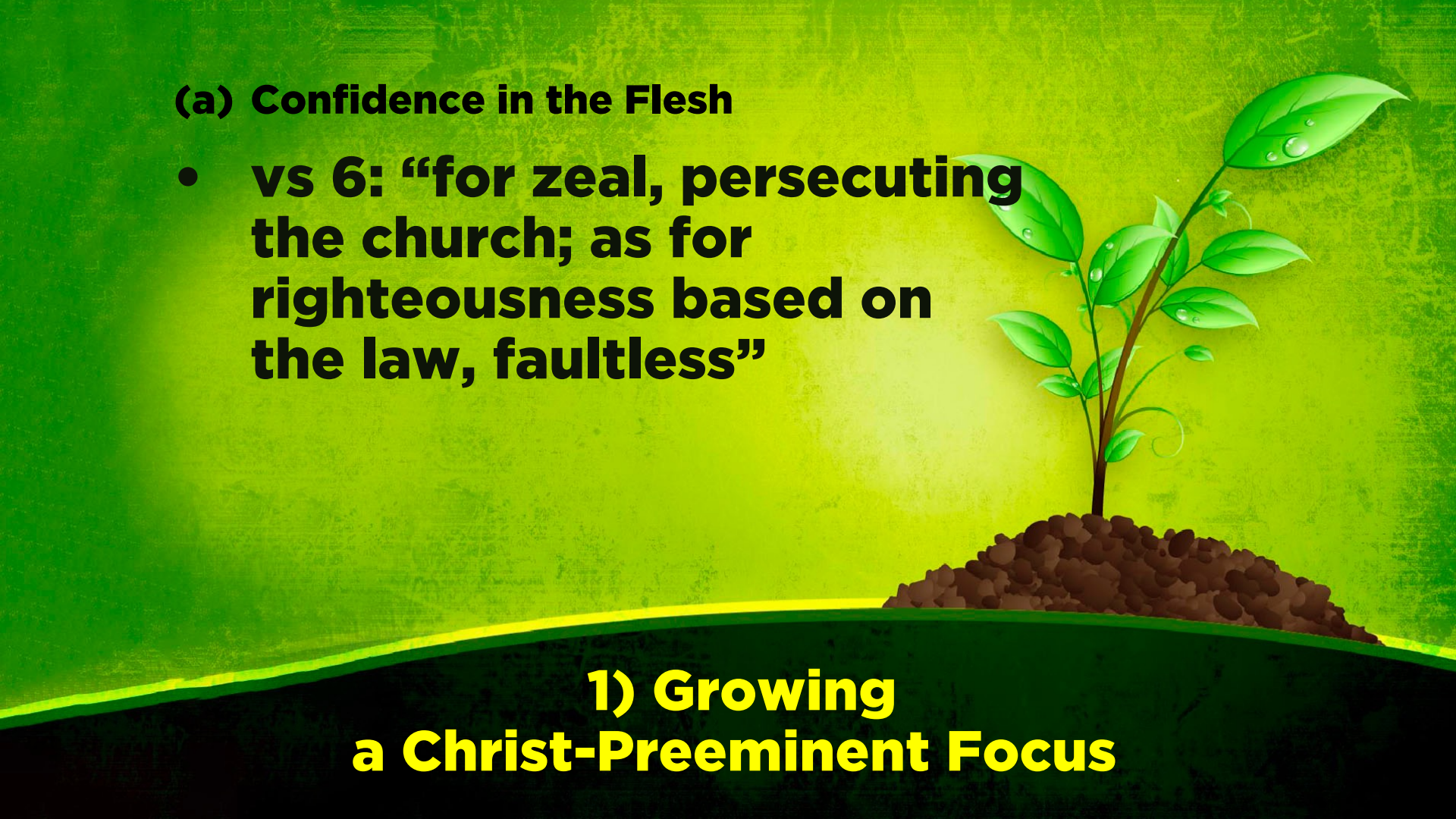
1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus

(a) Confidence in the Flesh

- vs 5 – “circumcised on the eight day”
- describing his birth right and heritage
- vs 5b – “in regard to the law, a Pharisee”



1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus


(a) Confidence in the Flesh
• vs 6: “for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless”
1) Growing
a Christ-Preeminent Focus

(b) Christ-preeminent Focus



1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus

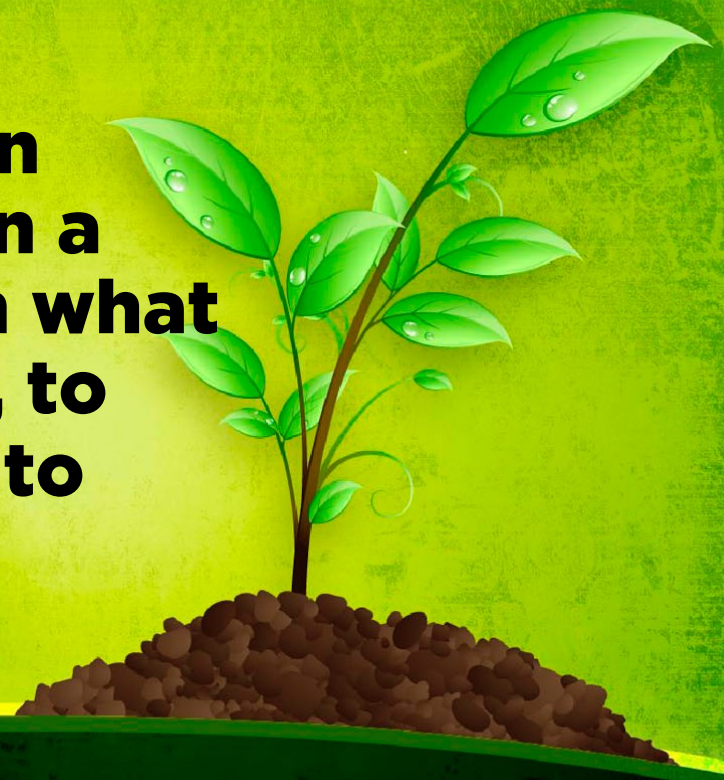
7 But whatever were gains to me I now
consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is
more, I consider everything a loss because of
the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus
my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I
consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ
9 and be found in him



Philippians 3:7-9b
(NIV)

(b) Christ-preeminent Focus

- **For this year and even beyond, let us grow in a focus that shifts from what the world focuses on, to what Christ wants us to focus on.**



1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus

(b) Christ-preeminent Focus

- **We must shift our focus from what is important to the world to what is important to Christ.**

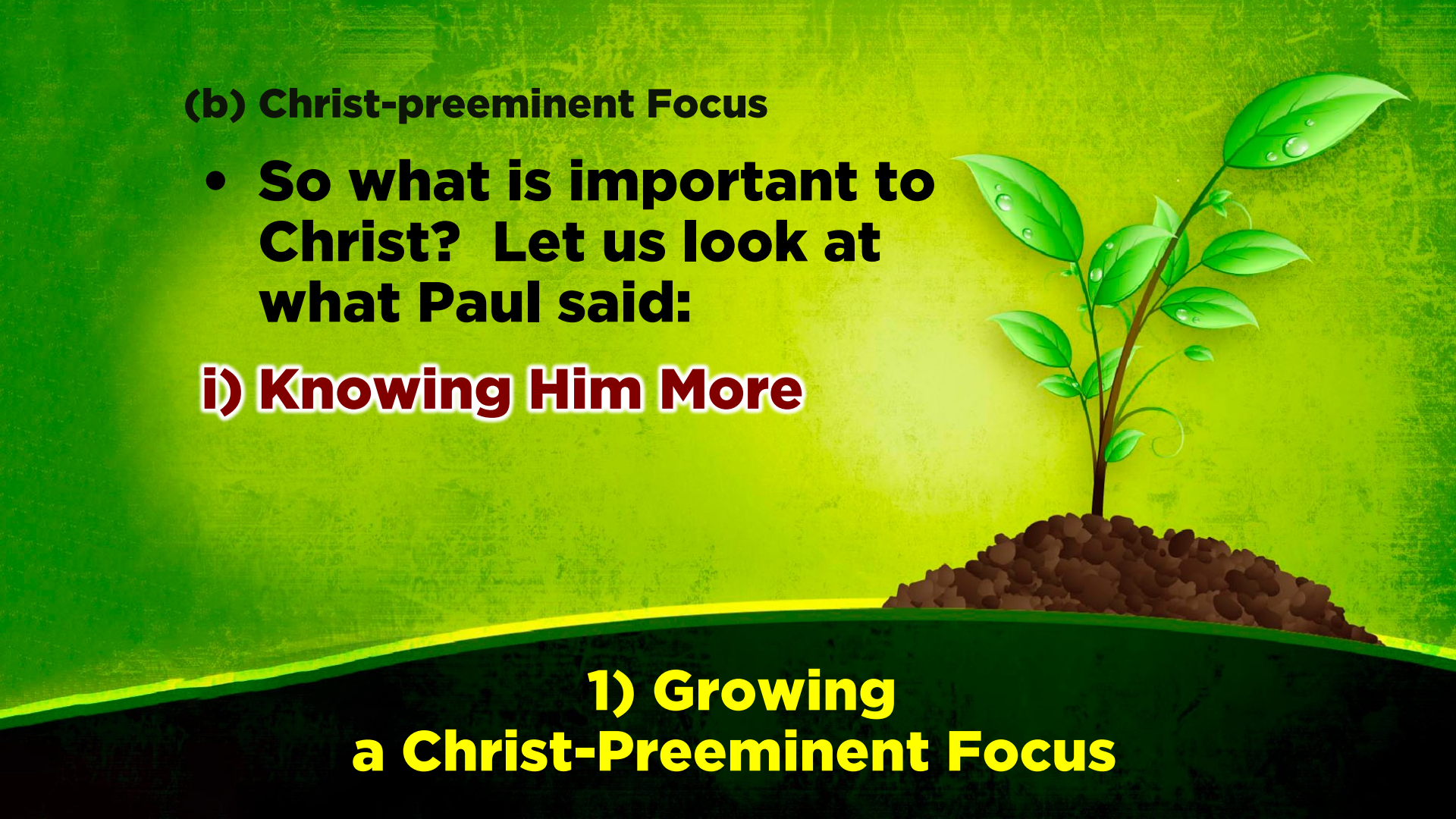


1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus

(b) Christ-preeminent Focus

- So what is important to Christ? Let us look at what Paul said:

i) Knowing Him More



1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus

7 But whatever former things were gains to me [as I thought then], these things [once regarded as advancements in merit] I have come to consider as loss [absolutely worthless] for the sake of Christ [and the purpose which He has given my life].



Philippians 3:7-8
(AMP)

8 But more than that, I count everything as loss compared to the priceless privilege and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord [and of growing more deeply and thoroughly acquainted with Him — a joy unequaled].



Philippians 3:7-8
(AMP)

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.



1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.



John 1:1 (NIV)

(b) Christ-preeminent Focus

ii) Grow in Righteousness

- "acting in accord with divine or moral law".



1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus

9 and may be found in Him [believing and relying on Him], not having any righteousness of my own derived from [my obedience to] the Law and its rituals, but [possessing] that [genuine righteousness] which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.



Philippians 3:9 (AMP)

(b) Christ-preeminent Focus

ii) Grow in Righteousness

- we need to grow in righteousness
  - not just about adhering to the laws and rituals, but also a true understanding of grace and faith



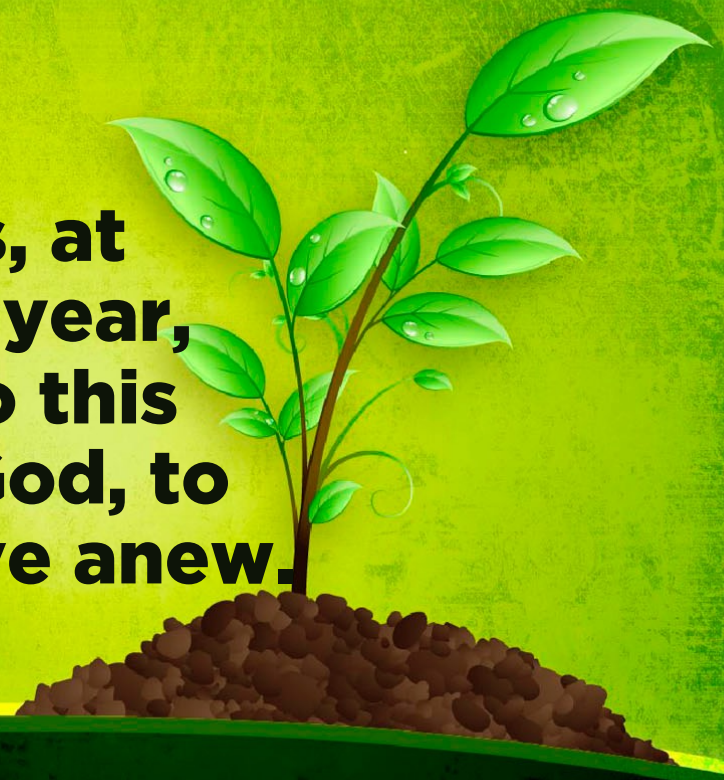
1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus


5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and
lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him, and
he will make your paths straight
Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

(b) Christ-preeminent Focus

ii) Grow in Righteousness

- Maybe for some of us, at the beginning of this year, need to come back to this grace and mercy of God, to leave our past and live anew.



1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus

(b) Christ-preeminent Focus

ii) Grow in Righteousness

- We should strive to shift our focus on life:

  - from being flesh-centric to Christ-centric

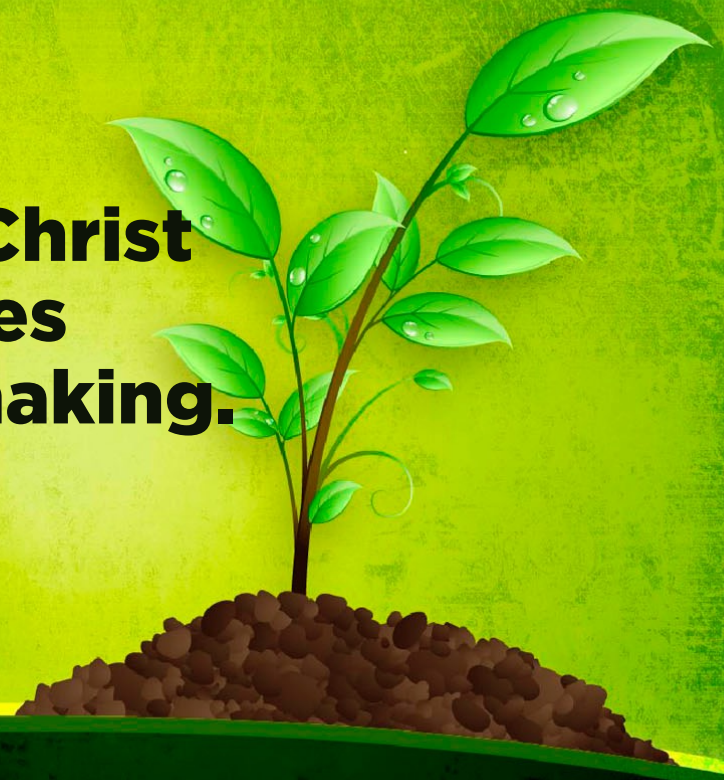


1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus

(b) Christ-preeminent Focus

ii) Grow in Righteousness

- We do so by having Christ preeminent in our lives and in our decision making.



1) Growing a Christ-Preeminent Focus



(a) Yet to Attain

2) Growing Perseverance in our Race

12 Not that I have already obtained all this,
or have already arrived at my goal, but
I press on to take hold of that for which
Christ Jesus took hold of me.



Philippians 3:12 (NIV)



(b) Persevering to Attain

- **Firstly, we need to forget what is behind (Vs 13).**

2) Growing Perseverance in our Race


Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,
Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)



(b) Persevering to Attain

- Secondly, we live up to what we have already attained (vs 16).
- Thirdly, press on toward the goal to win the prize (vs 14).

2) Growing Perseverance in our Race



(b) Persevering to Attain

- Fourthly, keep our eyes on the examples (vs 17).
- "Persevere in listening to this sermon"!

2) Growing Perseverance in our Race

What is a spirit-led life to you?

To me, it is about growing the Spirit-man in us, and involving the Holy Spirit in the way we live our daily lives.



3) Growing in Leading Spirit-led Lives


Conclusion