

Study D: Pursuing Biblical Goals

*"Now this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."*

John 17:3

Why: Reasons for the study

- Our goals, whether established consciously or unconsciously, become one of the vital factors in determining how we respond to life's situations.
- Most people have little understanding of God's goals and are pursuing their own goals instead.

What: Principles to grasp

- We have developed and pursue our self-life goals, which are not God's goals.
- We make decisions about our beliefs, attitudes and behaviors based on our goals.
- God had not promised to help us accomplish our goals.
- What we view as "roadblocks" to accomplishing our goals, God can use as "stepping stones" to accomplish His goals if we obey Him.
- God's goals usually require suffering and sacrifice.
- God has provided everything necessary to live for His goals.

How: Path to a changed life

- To renew their minds by confessing their sinful goals
- To change their belief system by "putting off" their sinful goals and "putting on" God's goals
- To identify the self-life goals involved in their beliefs, attitudes and behaviors
- To begin to see life from God's perspective and develop godly beliefs in how they approach life

Helpful ideas:

- The concepts of self-life goals vs. God's goals will probably be totally new concepts for them. Most Christians are living for their own goals – not God's – and do not have a biblical understanding of the place of suffering in the life of the believer.
- Discuss and explain the *Unbiblical and Biblical Goal* diagrams. (These are the same diagrams in *The Controllers* study titled *The Self-Life* and *The Surrendered Life*.)
- Have disciple practice renouncing self-life goals and adopting God's goals by renewing their minds.
- Encourage your disciples to remind themselves regularly, "I deserve to burn in hell – anything less than that is a pretty good day."

Tools and additional resources:

- *The Self Life vs. The Surrendered Life (The Controllers)*
- See *Roadblocks To Our Goals: The Self-life vs. The Surrendered Life* teaching video (ctousa.org/media/CTO T.V.)