TAKING STOCK—LOOKING FORWARD

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Philippians 3:7-15

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2009

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. 2 Corinthians 13:5

LOOKING BACK (2009)

1. What I am most grateful for this year: _____
2. The single most significant thing God did in my life this year: _____
3. The single most meaningful thing the Lord did *through* me this year: _____
4. The single greatest truth I learned this year: _____
5. A new initiative I took in my Christian walk (or ministry) this year: _____

   Results: _____

LOOKING FORWARD (2010)

1. Three areas I most need to grow in (*no less than one*):

   A. _____

   B. _____

   C. _____
2. A new initiative I need to take in my walk with Christ: _____
3. An old habit I need to get rid of: _____
4. A new habit I need to form: _____
5. An area of ministry I will seek to grow in: _____
6. An act of obedience I need to take: _____
7. Someone I need to thank for their role in my life: _____
8. Someone I need to approach about the things of God: _____

N O T E S

RESPONSIVE READING

1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Philippians 3:7-15

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for Whose sake I have lost all things.

I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 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 and is by faith.

I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Brothers, 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, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

All of us 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.