**On Mission: 4 Keys to Launch a Purposeful Year**

**Week 3: “Get Set”**

Provided by Alex Rodriguez, Senior Director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S. Missions

**Theme: Taking the Step of Faith and Obedience in Your Walk with God**

**Key Verse: Romans 8:5 (NIV)**
*Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*

**I. To Get Set is to Place our Minds on Something (Romans 8:5)**

* **Scripture:** *Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*
* **Point:** Every individual has a default thought process, what is yours?
* **Description:** Our minds and hearts are connected. What we value, we think about. What we think about, we value. This interdependent relationship means we will inevitably become the things we think about. Be it like the flesh, or the Spirit.

**II. The Thought Process the Flesh is Set On (Galatians 5:19-21)**

* **Scripture:** *The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
* **Point:** To set our minds on the flesh is to live a life divorced from God, in earth and eternity.
* **Description:** The presence of God will not inhabit a heart that He is not welcome in. The Bible is clear, to be a Christian is for our bodies to be the temple of the Lord. That temple must be a holy place. Likewise, those who want to live according to the flesh would have culture shock and antagonism against a place like Heaven - filled entirely with the things of the Spirit.

**III. The Thought Process the Spirit is Set On (Philippians 4:8)**

* **Scripture:** *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.*
* **Point:** Jesus is the embodiment of setting our minds on the Spirit.
* **Description:** He is the Truth - our noble King who made Himself poor to make us rich. He is the author of what is right, providing a moral compass for all humanity. He is pure in that He was without sin. He is lovely in that He simplified the law down to the practice of loving God and loving people as He Himself loves. He is admirable in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. To think about Him, is to become excellent and praiseworthy.

**Conclusion: The process of moving from a mind set on the flesh to set on the Spirit (1 John 2:15)**

* **Scripture:** *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him”*
* **Point:** To quote Thomas Chalmers, “we need the expulsive power of a new affection for Jesus.”
* **Description:** Changing what we set our minds on is not a matter of trying really hard to hate sin, but simply trying to love Jesus. The more we love Him, the more we think on what is noble and right and pure. The more we love God we cannot imagine having another god before Him or breaking His heart in any way. Likewise, the more we love our neighbor, we can’t stand the thought of stealing or dishonor. To love God with our minds by setting our minds on Jesus is to find ourselves obeying God’s commands.