

Growing Forward

What Lies Ahead

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Philippians 3: 10-16 NIV

¹⁰I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not 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. ¹³Brothers 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, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All 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. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

- 1. Seek to KNOW Christ.** Is knowing Christ personally something you strive for with increasing measure? How could knowing Him more help you run your race?
- 2. Desire Sanctification.** God desires for you to be made holy in Christ. Do you also *desire* and welcome this transformation?
- 3. Eyes on the Prize!** What or who is your prize you are chasing after?

Conclusion: Let us forget what is in the past; let us strain towards what is ahead. Let us keep our eyes forward and up as we run the race marked out for us, for we already have victory in Christ!

LIFE GROUP LESSON

What Lies Ahead

Week of May 7-May 13, 2023

Ice Breaker: Do you envision your future? What does it look like?

Read Philippians 3:10-16

1. What is Paul's great desire? (v.10)
2. Do you share this desire in your heart? *To really know Him?*
3. What specifically does Paul want to know about Christ?
4. Why might Paul want to experience being like Him in death? What might that mean for us? Dead to what?
5. How can we experience the power and joy of the resurrection if we don't first experience a death in ourselves?
6. What was Paul professing in v. 12 that can encourage us?
7. Paul also fell short, but what did he purpose in his heart? (v.12)
8. What is Paul taking hold of? What did Christ take hold of? Why?
9. What did Paul commit to in his walk that involved a past against Christ, prestige among religious leaders, and a road with great suffering to gain Christ? (v.13)
10. Can you commit the same in your heart? *Will you?*
11. What encouragement does he preach to us? (v.14)
12. How does he challenge us to live? (v.16) What have we already attained?
13. How important is our relationship with Christ to our ability to press on toward the goal?
14. Read John 14: 6-7. Who does Jesus say He is, and how does He play into our ability to receive our Heavenly prize?
15. Read 2 Peter 3:18. What are we called to do? What if we choose not to grow? What will we miss? How are we impacted?
16. Read John 17:3. What is the prize of eternal life? So what should be our treasure and focus even now?
17. Read Philippians 2:13. Who works in us? Why?
Note: this is the definition of grace.
18. Read 1 Peter 2: 2-3. What are we to crave?
19. Why are Christians called to keep growing and maturing in the Lord? Should we desire this growth? How do we increase our desire if so?
20. Read Hebrews 12:1. What are we to throw off? What are we to do?