

Philippians Week 3

Philippians 3:1-17

Pressing On To The Goal

Today marks the halfway point of our journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians. Over the past three weeks, we have looked at a few of the most challenging and liberating ideas found in God's word.

We've learned that we can seek and find our identity in God, the creator of the universe, who is actively faithful to work in and through us until we reach completion in Him. We've been encouraged to live our lives in community with others and see that it's really God's plan for us to do so.

Two weeks ago, we were reminded that we are to live lives "worthy of the gospel," understanding that though we are a sinful and broken people, we are redeemed and made worthy in God's eyes through the sacrifice and grace of Jesus Christ. Last week, we focused on having the mind of Christ, finding unity with other believers and understanding that to reach this world with the message of Christ, we must humble ourselves as He did and serve with passion and compassion.

This week, we build on these ideas and look at two more beautiful themes that God desperately wants us to learn and understand. The first is the question of where we place/find our confidence. So many times, we look at the things we've achieved, accumulated and overcome as personal ribbons and trophies - things that make us look good, feel good and confident. In the first half of chapter 3, Paul reminds us that none of these things we have "gained" in our lives mean anything in comparison to where we stand in relationship with Jesus Christ.

The final few verses we will look at this morning are inspiring. In verse 13-14, we see that two of Satan's great weapons and joy robbers, guilt and regret, have no place in the life and mind of a Christ follower. We can be confident in God's forgiveness and look forward to becoming the person God has created us to be, reaching our full potential in Him.

A few questions for thought and meditation:

1. Where is your joy level right now? What is keeping it from being higher?
2. What defines you? For what in your life are you most confident?
3. How present are the two great joy robbers, sin and guilt, in your life? Do you trust that God has forgiven you?