

to be content...

Aaron Ferguson, Elder.....October 18, 2020

...in one thing only

Philippians 3:1-21

Life is about *one thing* - Christ.

Confidence and *contentment* are found in Him.

Gain or Loss?

- What was Paul's one thing? (v.1)
- What was Paul's warning? (v.1-3)
- What were Paul's "trophies?" (v.4-6)
- How did Paul view his "trophies?" (v.7-9)

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Pressing On

- What are our goals in life after salvation? (v.10, 11, 20, 21)

- 1.

- 2.

- 3.

- What is our motivation to attain these goals? (v.12)

- What three obstacles must we avoid? (v.13-19)

- 1.

- 2.

- 3.

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PHILIPPIANS 3:1-21

Questions for adults to discuss:

1. What is Paul's main point in verses 2-11? How would you summarize it?
2. In verses 7-8, we see repetition several times. What does Paul keep repeating? What is he trying to communicate?
3. What does it mean to count everything as loss for the sake of Christ? What does this look like in your life?
4. What is significant about what Paul says in v. 9 about righteousness? How does this impact our understanding and communication of the gospel?
5. Why does Paul press on toward this goal (in verses 12-13)? What does this tell us about the Christian life?
6. In verse 18 the apostle Paul speaks of those who "walk as enemies of the cross of Christ." Who is he speaking about? What do we know about their identity in verse 18?
7. Paul says he is constantly "straining forward to what lies ahead," "toward the goal," which is "the prize of the upward call." What is he referring to?
8. Paul condenses the gospel message to a few short lines, making clear what it is and is not. Do the same in your own words. If someone asked you what he or she must do in order to be made right with God; what would you say?

Questions to discuss with 6th-12th grade students:

1. How does knowing Christ compare to all other things in verse 8? What does this "loss" entail?
2. What does verse 9 teach us about salvation? What does it mean to be righteous? Where does righteousness come from?
3. How should verses 12-14 comfort us when we fail?
4. Is it wrong for Paul to ask the Philippians to "join in imitating me?"
5. How are you helped, in your daily routine, knowing you are a citizen of heaven?

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Questions for 2nd-5th graders:

Read Philippians 3:12-14.

As a family, play the game of one-up...can you out-brag your neighbor? Start with a challenge. Go around in a circle and have them try to outdo one another on different bragging topics. Provide a starter, such as "I finished a book in five days." Then have the next person come up with more impressive statements, like "I did it in two days" or "I wrote a book in five days." These elements can be real things, trying to come up with amazing past events, or they can be made up to sound exciting.

Ask everyone to discuss what they are proud of and what they enjoy doing. What are the best moments they can brag about?

Jesus should be first in our hearts and minds. Instead of trying to find our identity and worth in the things that we do, we need to find our strength and place our hope in Christ alone. How can we make more of Jesus than ourselves?

Questions/Activities for birth-1st graders:

Philippians 3:20-21 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

Paul came to know the power of God at the time of his salvation. He could not save himself. To be saved, he needed the power of God. We need God's power for everything. We can do nothing on our own.

Questions:

1. Can you do anything to make God save you (work hard, do the right thing)? (no)
2. Can you become a Christian without the power of God? (no)
3. Can you do anything without God's power? (no)

Activities:

Find a safe object in your house that needs a power cord or battery to work. Talk to your kids about how the object is without any connected power. For instance, if a lamp isn't plugged in it is still a lamp. However, it cannot do what it is supposed to do without power. It is supposed to light the room. Look at items without power and then connect them to power and talk about the difference. Remind your children that our power comes from God and we need to be connected to Him to receive that power. We are connected through Bible study, prayer, fellowship with other believers, etc.