

Week 7 - A Higher Prize, A Higher Home (3:12-4:1)

A. The Objective and The Motivation (v. 12-14)

*Paul's admits that he is not perfect already, or that he has obtained his goal of knowing Christ and obtaining the resurrection from the dead.

1. Objective is to "PRESS ON" - to strive to make it his own
 - a. Forgetting what lies behind
 - b. Straining forward to what lies ahead
 1. The Goal and the Prize
 - a. Knowing Christ in Full (head and heart) (Sanctification)
 - b. Obtaining the Resurrection from the dead (Glorification)
 2. The Upward call of God in Christ Jesus
2. Motivation is "because Christ Jesus" had made Paul his own (v. 12) (Justification)
 - a. Paul's desire to press on was a result of God's call on his life
 - b. This motivation leads to Christian Devotion and Discipleship (see Question 1)

B. The Guidance of the Lord (v. 15)

1. God guides the believer in spiritual matters.
2. The Spirit of God is working in the minds, hearts, and spirits of believers to mature us and reveal truth to us that we might be more devoted and mature in CHRIST.

C. The Challenge (v. 16-17)

1. Hold True to what has already been attained
 - a. Maintain our position like soldiers on a battlefield
2. Imitate those who walk according to the Spirit
 - a. Advance our position and strive to grow in faith and godliness

D. Why? The Higher Prize and Higher Home (v. 18-

1. The Two Camps

* We are in a spiritual War and there are only 2 sides to the battle - 2 opposing armies

- a. The Lost: Those who walk as "enemies of the cross of Christ"
 1. Their god is their belly - they worship their fleshly desires and appetites.
 2. Their glory is in their shame - they boast in their sin
 3. Their minds are set on earthly things - they live as though this life is all there is
 4. Their end is Destruction
- b. The Found: Those who have been bought by Christ, who has made us His own
 1. Our God is not found in flesh or the things of the flesh
 2. Our Glory is found not in our sin but in our Savior who will return
 3. Our Minds are set on heavenly things where we have a citizenship that will last
 4. Our End is not destruction but Eternal Life and fellowship with our LORD, Jesus Christ

2. The Power is found in Christ to whom all things have been subjected (1 Cor. 15:28)

E. The Challenge Restated

1. Stand Firm in the LORD!

F. In Class Work

1. Together - Read the section from this week (Philippians 3:12 - 4:1) and discuss together.

G. Questions to Consider

1. Godly Christians who have lived before us recognized that the three main enemies believers face are the world, the flesh, and the devil. What are some examples of these in your own life that keep you from passionately pursuing the goal of becoming more and more like Christ.

2. We admire commitment and devotion in many areas of life such as medicine, science, music, or athletics. We celebrate those who are devoted to their craft and reach high success because of their devotion. But when someone has the same level of devotion to the Word and the Lord they are often looked at as a fanatic. Why is this so?
3. Some groups and people teach that, even as Christians, we can still indulge in sin and live a life which is not different from that of the unbeliever. Discuss this in light of this section of Scripture.
4. What Godly examples do you have around you? How are you filling your mind with Godly examples so you can strive after them in the faith?

H. For Further Study / Homework

1. HOMEWORK: Read Philippians 1:1-4:23 this week with a focus on 4:2-4:23 for next week's study. Read Daily. Write down, highlight, or note questions, comments, or things you notice in the text throughout the week to discuss next Sunday.
2. Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. Is the knowledge of God more important than riches and power? Where does it rank on your scale of priorities?
3. Read Colossians 1:9-10. Is it possible for Christians to increase in the knowledge of God? Suggest what this might mean to you in practice.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2:1-2 and Galatians 6:14. How did Paul regard the cross of Christ?
5. How is the Christian to respond to the lusts of the flesh? Read 2 Timothy 2:22; Titus 2:12; 1 Peter 2:22; 4:2