

How many of us do better when we have a goal to strive towards? No matter what the exact perk is at the end it helps. Today Paul is going to say the same about the Christian life. We are all on a journey of spiritual growth and that will continue until we pass from this world or when Jesus returns!

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-3

Songs of Praise

King of Kings Holy, Holy, Holy

Announcements and Offering

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Confession of Faith

New City Catechism #1

Q1 What is our only hope in life and death?

A. That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

Reference - Romans 14:7-8

Song of Declaration

Hallelujah Amen

Sermon - The Journey of Faith

Sermon Scripture - Philippians 3:12-16

Justification

- What is justification?
 - Justification is an act of God's free grace by which he pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, received by faith alone. -Westminster Confession of Faith #33
 - Romans 3:24
 - Romans 4:6-8
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - Philippians 3:9
- Is justification the "end of the road" for the Christian?
- What must Christians continue to do?

Sanctification

- What is the goal Paul is striving towards?
 - Philippians 3:14
 - Philippians 3:8
- How do justification and sanctification go hand in hand?
- What is sanctification?
 - Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness. - Westminster Confession of Faith #35
 - There's a difference between knowing God and knowing about God. When you truly know God, you have energy to serve Him, boldness to share Him, and contentment in Him. J.I. Packer

Maturity

- What does Paul mean by "maturity?"
 - The closest to perfection that any of us will get in this life is to see that you have not reached the finish line but must keep running towards the goal. **Dennis Johnson**
- What important idea is found in Ephesians 4:13?
- What is Paul's final exhortation?
 - Philippians 3:16

Song of Response

The Lion and the Lamb

Benediction

- 1. What goal(s) have you set for yourself?
- 2. Why is the doctrine of justification by faith alone so difficult for some to believe?
- 3. Would you say you are mature in your Christian faith? Why or why not?
- 4. What, if anything, are you currently doing to move forward in your spiritual journey?
- 5. J.I. Packer says there is a difference in knowing God and knowing about God. Would you agree?
- 6. Where have you seen God at work recently?