

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, August 28, 2022
The Book of Philippians

Message Summary:

This week in our series, The Book of Philippians, Pastor John Carter taught us out of Philippians 1:10-11:

[Phil. 1:10-11 NKJV] ...that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Phil. 1:10 tells us that there is a big day coming soon when we will stand before Jesus. All the things you usually invest in in this life – success, family, degrees, achievements, possessions – will pass away in that moment. And all that will really matter is the conversation we have in that moment with the Lord about what you could have done and what you chose to do. Dependent upon that conversation, there is going to be a moment of cleansing and a moment of blessing. This conversation is really based upon the choices that you made in this life. There are things you have to make choices about – the not so good, the good, the better and the best. And you have to learn how to choose what is the best for your life. This is what Paul means when he said in v.10 to “approve (test or assess) the things that are excellent.” These choices have a purpose. The purpose is to be found without offense by the One who is examining you – Jesus – on your big day.

This is your responsibility to prepare for your big day. The hope is that by making daily choices to choose the things that are excellent, you will fill your life with the fruit of righteousness, which gives glory and praise to God! You need to judge your life according to what Christ has told you he wants you to do. And let everyone else you may have been judging off the hook! Paul would not tell us this if it was not possible! To the best of your ability, you need to make good choices (with the help of the Holy Spirit), living an authentic and unoffensive life, intentionally living out of your righteousness in Jesus Christ. This is your responsibility! God will only hold you accountable for what you did on your big day. Will you be ready for that conversation?

Other Scriptures:

[Titus 2:11-14 NKJV] 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself [His] own special people, zealous for good works.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think Paul meant to approve “the things that are excellent”?
2. What do you think it looks like to be “sincere and without offense”?
3. How are you filled with the fruit of righteousness (or right living)?

Life Application:

This week, reread our key verses for today, Philippians 1:10-11. Pastor John said, “Righteousness in you needs to be seen on you! It is one thing to be made right by God, and it is another thing to choose to act right!” Examine your life and ask yourself – are you living an authentic life without offense? Are you choosing the excellent things in life? How are you living your life in the body God gave you? Examine your choices and think about the conversation you want to have with the Lord on your big day. When we choose to grow the fruit of right living through our daily choices, we give all glory to God. Remember, this is our responsibility!