

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Start with the End

With Phil Harwood

January 6, 2019 - Happy New Year!



Philippians 3:1-4:1 Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. ² Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. ³ For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, ⁴ though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! ⁵ I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶ I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. ⁷ I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! ¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. ¹⁵ Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. ¹⁶ But we must hold on to the progress we have already made. ¹⁷ Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. ¹⁸ For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. ²⁰ But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Saviour. ²¹ He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

⁴ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work.

Big Idea: The abundant life in Jesus is the one lived with the End in mind.

Starting with the End in mind:

- **Gives us Perspective** Philippians 3:7-9

My life only makes sense in the context of God's story.

God gives us glimpses into the End of this part of the story, which gives us perspective:

Eternal value of what we do today: Rev 20:11-13

Solution to injustice: Rev 19:11-16

Creation made perfect: Rev 21:1-2

Wrong made right: Rev 21:22-27

End of sickness, pain, death: Rev 21:3-7; 22:1-2

Ultimate closeness with God: Rev 22: 3-6

- **Gives us Purpose** Philippians 3:10-14

- **Gives us Passion** Philippians 3:17-4:1:

We can risk everything for Jesus, knowing we will gain everything because of Jesus.

So what do we do?

1) **Get to know Jesus and God's promises.**

The first and most reliable source for this is the Bible.

2) **Examine your life in light of the End.**

Knowing the end of the story should make a difference in how we live today. Matthew 19:29

"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

C.S. Lewis

3) **Live with the End in Mind, in the context of community.**

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).



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**Start with the End
#1 of 1 — Jan. 6, 2019**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? What was your most significant takeaway?

3) Read Philippians 3:1-4:1. What difference does living with the End in mind make for Paul? What does he call his readers to do?

4) In your own words, explain what is the “heavenly prize” Paul refers to in Phil 3:14.

5) Read the following passages from Revelation. What perspective do they offer followers of Jesus? What questions do they raise for you?

Rev 20:11-13

Rev 19:11-16

Rev 21:1-2

Rev 21:22-27

Rev 21:3-7; 22:1-2

Rev 22: 3-6

6) What would it look like in your own life, and in your Impact Community, if you lived with Perspective, Purpose, and Passion like we see in Philippians 3?

7) What steps do you need to take to “start with the End” in 2019?

8) What steps can you take as an Impact Community and how can you help one another?

9) Three practical stories from our church family of people who “start with the end” in mind were highlighted in the message. Share examples from your own life with your Impact Community of when you “started with the end”.



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