

Philippians Part 5 HANDOUT

1/14/24

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- Early church saw their earthly life through the lens of eternity

PHIL 3:12-14 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

- Paul persists through the suffering by forgetting the past and focusing we have because of Jesus
- Head towards the goal when you are fighting distractions

KEY: If you want to live a miserable life, then keep looking back to your past focusing on your failures.

KEY: One of the things that keeps so many people from going forward is their unwillingness to forget or set aside things from their past.

Forgetting past hurts, offenses, problems, and failures is necessary in order to genuinely press toward the mark of Christ-likeness.

QUOTE: “Resentment (holding a grudge) is like taking poison and waiting for the other person to die.” - not sure who originally penned this quote

PHIL 3:15-16 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

- Maturity - knowing it's not easy to run / the path the starts now and leads into eternity

PHIL 3:17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

1 COR 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

- Watch my life and do the same
- Be the copy that's worth duplicating

PHIL 3:18-19 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

- The way we think about our friends, family, finances, career, and resources should be the same as how Jesus though about those things.

PHIL 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

- Philippi needs to remember that they have a relationship with the living God
- Perseverance in the Christian life can seem impossible at times.
 1. One, we can persist in sacrificially following Jesus by looking forward to the end goal of eternity.
 2. Two, when eternity feels abstract or too far away to focus on, we can know that we are not alone.

QUOTE: "I've never met a man better than your brother...He sure played that game...He played it like it meant something."

LIFE POINT: Live life like it "means something" for eternity, because it does!