

Home Group Leader's Notes

Share It

What is something you've done that took wholehearted pursuit?

- This could be sports, career, romance, etc.

Learn from the Bible (God's words)

Read Philippians 3:12-4:1.

How does Paul (the author) describe his efforts? What goal is he pursuing?

- Paul's efforts: press on, take hold, straining toward, press on, live up to, follow my example, we eagerly await, stand firm.

How does Paul view the past? (13-15) His future?

- Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead
- Paul's singular focus was on knowing Christ, and this led him to press on and persevere.

According to this passage, what is required to live with unshakable faith? (3:12- 4:1)

- This is a summary of the passage.

Paul says to 'Follow my example' (17). Who is an example in your life? Is this helping?

- Perhaps share this during the Discuss Together time

Discuss together

What do you think or feel when you read about Paul's "wholehearted pursuit" to know and follow Jesus? What does this pursuit require of him (or us)? (Also see sermon notes)

- His example can be inspiring, motivating, or challenging.
- Sometimes we feel like Paul's example is so above us that we don't relate.
- Or, we can give up because we feel like it is above us.

How can our past become an anchor that pulls us down? Why? How can future things motivate us now?

- Our past can include hurts, sins, losses, and pain of many types. Paul is not making light of deep wounds or saying to just dismiss these.
- He is referring to his credentials as one who tried to follow the law.
- He has his eyes on living in Christ and one day being with Christ.
- Though this is not in the immediate context, I do think it is wise to deal with something of the past that is holding one back. It is difficult to give oneself fully to Christ, His family, and His mission while carrying an unnecessary burden.

Who and what inspires and motivates you to pursue Christ Jesus? (17)

- It is always a joy to hear how God is using His family to encourage and motivate others.
- God uses us in different ways to bring His people to maturity. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Paul repeatedly describes the pursuit as an “us,” something we do together. What might it look like to pursue Him together? (cf. “join with others” (17), “all of us” (15), and “let us” (16))

- This is a theme we are pursuing this year – i.e. that God wants to live and grow together as His family.
- This is yet another passage that clearly say that we are to pursue Jesus together.

Grace to you,

Steve