

Welcome!

- ✓ *Grab a cup of coffee and breakfast.*
- ✓ *Say hello to someone you don't know.*
- ✓ *We'll gather at 10:20am.*

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Preparing our Hearts for Worship

Psalm 34:1-3

*I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.*

*I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.*

*Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.*

From Today's Bible in One Year reading...

“We all want to live happy lives. ‘Happiness,’ wrote Aristotle, ‘is the meaning and purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence.’ But there is something even better, greater and deeper than happiness. Happiness is dependent on what happens – our circumstances. Joy is far deeper and is not so dependent on our outward circumstances. It is a blessing from God. Joy is the characteristic of an encounter with Jesus.”

Joy

in the

Journey

Paul's letter to the
Philippians



Review (from last week)

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Joni Eareckson Tada

“I think the whole purpose of suffering is to press us up against the Lord Jesus, to hear His heartbeat, and to identify with Him in His sufferings.



It's not about what suffering does for me. It's about knowing Jesus better.”

Philippians 3:12-16

12 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

Philippians 3:12-16

Christ Jesus. 15 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.

Paul's Illustrations

- 1) Army /Military (Ephesians 6)
- 2) Architecture (1 Corinthians 3)
- 3) Agriculture (Galatians 6)
- 4) Athletics (Philippians 3)

Philippians 3:12-13

12 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.

- We have a long way to go!
- Work out YOUR salvation.
- It all starts with God.

Q: How do we run the race (of the Christian life) to win the prize (of knowing Jesus)?

- 1) Dissatisfaction
- 2) Devotion
- 3) Direction
- 4) Determination
- 5) Discipline

1. Dissatisfaction

“I have not already taken hold of it.”
– Philippians 3:13b

“A divine dissatisfaction is essential for spiritual progress.” – Warren Wiersbe

Simul Justus et Peccator

2. Devotion

“But one thing I do.” – Philippians 3:13b

“Too many Christians are too involved in ‘many things,’ when the secret of progress is to concentrate on “one thing.” – Warren Wiersbe

3. Direction

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.” – Philippians 3:13c

“Followers of Christ should be future-oriented, ‘forgetting those things which are behind,’ which means that we break the power of the past by living for the future.” – Warren Wiersbe

4. Determination

“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 3:14

“Some Christians are so busy ‘dying to self’ that they never come back to life again to run the race. And others are so sure they can make it on their own that they never stop to read the Word, pray, or ask for the power of the Lord.” – Warren Wiersbe

5. Discipline

“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. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.”

– Philippians 3:15-16

“If you break the rules, you may not lose your citizenship (heaven) but you will lose your rewards.”

– Warren Wiersbe

Final Reflection

We can forget what is behind, strain towards what is ahead, overcome obstacles, press on, and win the prize *“for which Christ Jesus took hold of me”* (Phil. 3:12b).

You can take hold of the prize (of knowing Jesus) because Jesus has taken hold of you. And once Jesus takes hold of you, He will never let you go.

Irish Blessing

*"May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again, May God hold you
in the palm of His hand."*