

8-28-24 – Philippians – Week 8

Last 2 wks. Ch. 3 – all the stuff I tried to do to be self-righteous was garbage. What matters most – knowing Jesus, being filled w/ faith... led by God/H.S.

To lead our best life, we “Forget what is behind & strain toward what is ahead, . . . pressing on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward..”

- Keep your eye on the Heavenly Prize. It’s so easy to get distracted.
 - o God is never upset w/us getting back on track. Don’t quit race.

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. 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.”

I – Clarity & Examples.

- Spiritual maturity takes time. We grow, w/ **grace, at own pace**.
 - o Notice – Paul doesn’t argue he’s right; leaves it to God.
 - **John 16:8** – Jesus said: When H.S. “comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment”
 - o **Here’s what we agree on:** we believe in Jesus, son of God. Love.
 - We’ve accepted salvation! A forever gift. No take backs.
 - We’ve received grace... mercy at throne of God... H. Home
- **Live up to it. Worthy.** Live as **citizens of Heaven**. Be an example.
 - o **Put into practice** the truth we know/have comprehended.
 - Let’s be Examples of the love of God... servants/love... followers of a gentle Shepherd.... Humble, patient, kind.
 - o **Need more good examples** to see. Full-time Followers!
 - There are plenty of part-time Christians ... in/out citizens.
 - o Too often we keep our eyes on stars . . . actors & athletes.

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone: “I think now I can show up to the track every day and understand that this is a gift He’s given me that win, lose, or draw, it’s an opportunity to glorify Him, and my value is already secure in Christ,” she added. “So there’s no fear of not being enough and that everything that I need is found in Him.” Its “a daily choice to die to yourself and to fix your eyes on Christ” she added.

Instagram post after 400 mt hurdles: *"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!" - Psalm 115:1*

Instagram post after winning Gold in 4x400 relay: "My faith was being tested all week. From bad practices, to 3 false start delays, to a meet delay. I just kept hearing God say, "Just focus on me". It was the best race plan I could have ever assembled. I no longer run for self recognition, but to reflect His perfect will that is already set in stone. I don't deserve anything. But by grace, through faith, Jesus has given me everything. Records come and go. The glory of God is eternal."

- Look for good examples... or Be a good example. Glorify God, not ourselves

MSG – Phil. 3:17-21 ¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, & trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites. ²⁰⁻²¹ But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him.

II – There are Other Paths... Lead elsewhere

- We can't all arrive at the same place... by going anyway we want.
 - o You can't head down any path there is and expect to arrive at X.
 - Our GPS – make a U-turn. Easy Street isn't Streets/Gold.
 - o There are "**enemies of the cross**" [NIV] ... oppose Christianity.
 - They live for their own pleasure, pursue self-centered glory. *"Belches are their praise"* – lots of hot air.
 - ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things."
 - If you're building a kingdom here for yourself, you aren't focused on the **returning King** & his eternal Kingdom.
 - Jesus said we enter God's Kingdom only thru the narrow gate.
 - **Matt. 7:13** – *"For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it."*
 - **Isaiah 35:8** – There's a great road - *"the Highway of Holiness. Evil-minded people will never travel on it. It will be only for those who walk in God's ways; fools will never walk there."*

- Which Rd u on? Hwy of Holiness leads Home. We'll be transformed.
 - See Jesus as He is...reside in love, perfect peace, joy unimagined
 - Nothing here can compare to the Glory we'll see.
 - Here we lack wisdom. Understanding. "Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."
 - God knows you. Fully. Loves you... preparing 4 u.
- Remember your citizenship. **Keep track** of those running this **same course**.
 - Look around... who is with you? Who is falling behind? Left out?
- **Keep track of who you are**, where you are. Steady diet or Binge?
 - We live here, but not of this world. Leaving this world.
 - Set your mind on what's eternal... will last... we're on a mission!
 - Mission goal: show love of God. Don't waste time/garbage.

Phil. 4 – "Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

² I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life."

- "Stand firm." Remain faithful to the cause/Christ, be united in God's love.
 - Our disagreements between each other don't help the cause of Christ.
 - We don't have to agree on everything, but find unity.
 - Live w/ the mind of Jesus (ch 2) – He gave up His Divine privileges & took the humble position of a Servant to show the love of God.
 - Constant feuding will cost you... peace/health/early grave
 - We can choose to stay out of the bickering. Don't respond.
 - **Psm 18:43** – *"You have freed me from the feuds among the people"*
 - Wouldn't you like to be free? Live in peace. It's possible.
 - Live w/the "same mind" of Jesus. Humble Love.