

Message Notes

Gospel Joy in Pressing On

Philippians 3:12-21

Joy Revolution, part 10

November 26, 2006

Remember, learning to “Delight Ourselves in the Lord” involves:

1. Willfully choosing
2. Diligently practicing
3. Humbly using the “helps” that God provides:
 - Creation & the Word
 - Prayer & Praise
 - Christian Community

grace
San Luis Obispo

Message Outline

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Joy Stream #8 = Gospel Joy in Pressing On

Those who God saves and justifies, he also empowers and sanctifies to run the Christian race.

Experiencing joy in pressing on involves:

I. Dissatisfaction (v. 12-13)

I haven't yet completed or fulfilled that for which God has for me here & now!

II. Devotion (v. 12-14)

Devotion is to be single-minded & whole-hearted.

We were NOT created to be a stagnant pond, but an active, rushing joy stream with living water flowing in and flowing out.

III. Direction (v. 12-15)

God calls us through the gospel so that Christ may raise us up at the end of our Christian race here on earth.

Hebrews 12:1-2

There is no place for mediocrity or complacency as we run the Christian race!

Psalms 143:5-6

We ought to live life daily with the sense of pursuit & excitement of soon breaking that finish line tape!

IV. Discipline (v.16)

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Most of us don't need to come to grips with what we don't know as much as we need to come to grips with what we do know.

V. Deliverance (v.17-21)

We are a colony of heaven, here on the Central Coast.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read again Philippians, chapter 3. How do verses 10 and 11 (that we looked at last week) tie into the rest of the chapter we looked at this week? What is it that has captured Paul's focus and energy?
2. How does the analogy of a runner coming to the finish line of a race give us a picture of what it looks like to press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus? Think specifically of the 5 "D" words we looked at.
3. What does the word perfect mean in verses 12 and 15? How are they the same and how are they different?
4. Devotion has a two-fold meaning. Explain the two parts and why both parts must be involved for it to be devotion?
5. In this chapter, Paul has previously shared about his past personal accomplishments. How does this fit in with his exhortation in verse 13 to forget what lies behind while reaching forward to what lies ahead? Look again at Psalm 143:5-6

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Thinking of our 5 "D" words from the message, which aspect of pressing on is the toughest for you to run in the Christian race daily? What will you do to train & strengthen yourself in this area?
3. It was mentioned Sunday that "We were not created to be a stagnant pond, but an active, rushing joy stream with living water flowing in and living water flowing out." What does that look like in your life? Where is living water coming in and where is living water coming out? How does the flowing in relate to the flowing out?
4. What does it mean to you that we are a colony of heaven, here on the Central Coast? How does that affect decisions you make daily?
5. If you are still breathing, God is not finished with you!!! What are you passionate about? What BHAG (big, hairy, audacious goal) might God have for you? What BHAG might he have for our church?