

We get to bring the culture and rule of heaven to St. Petersburg.

Two Perspectives, One Purpose

Philippians 3:7-4:1

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Philippians 4:1

Questions for discussion and application

- Read Philippians 3:1-4:1. What stands out to you? What observations do you have? Is there anything in the passage that convicts or challenges you? If so, what?
- What is Paul warning the Philippians of? (see 3:2-6)
- What comparison does Paul make in 3:7-11?
- How might we be tempted to place our confidence that we have acceptance before God in something other than Jesus?
- What did Paul mean when he said, “*I want to know Christ?*” How does an “experiential knowledge” of Jesus impact the way you live your life at home, at school, or at work?
- Discouragement can have a crippling effect. Are you discouraged? If so how? How does this chapter speak encouragement to your situation?
- What is the ONE THING Paul did? See 3:12-14. What did it require? What would happen if we adopted this as our purpose statement?
- If this “heavenward call” is NOT some “cloud in the sky” existence we wait for then what exactly is it?
- Describe the second perspective Paul talks about found in Verse 19. What does he immediately compare it to? (hint: verse 20)
- The Bible often describes our faith in Jesus as a race or a fight. (Ex: 1 Corinthians 9:24-26; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7-8) Why do you think that is?
- Take some time to pray for a greater desire to know, love and live for Jesus, that the culture and rule of heaven would be known in St. Pete / Tampa Bay.

Philippians 3:7-4:1

The first perspective: a heart and mind set on Jesus (Philippians 3:7-17)

1. Comparison: I have lost all things (3:7-11)

EVERYTHING he counted as profit at one time is seen as it really is! A bogus gift card!

Luke 18:10-14

2. Resolve: I want know Christ (3:10-11)

This isn't head knowledge; this isn't about being acquainted with Jesus – like some kind of Facebook friend. Instead it means he wants an experiential knowledge of Jesus that leads to transformation.

3. Purpose: I press on towards the goal (3:12-17)

We've just scratched the surface; we're staring at the tip of an iceberg! **Colossians 2:3**

Philippians 3:13-14 ONE THING was the consuming passion of Paul's life.

You have a CALL.
Has this hit you yet?
You have a PURPOSE.

1 Corinthians 9:24-26; 2 Timothy 4:7-8

We're endlessly distracted.

- How do you view Jesus in relationship to everything else?
- Where have you been duped into believing you've arrived?
- Have you lost sight of the calling on your life?
- Have you stopped pressing on?

Philippians 3:17 - A model of perseverance (not perfection).

The second perspective: a heart and mind set on earthly things. (Philippians 3:18-19)

Their god = their stomach
Their glory = their shame