

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Happy New Year 2016

These questions are for the **January 3, 2016** sermon, "Pressing on Toward the Goal." Please read the sermon passage (Philippians 3:12-16) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

Making Christ-centeredness our goal entails . . .

1. **Assessing our lives accurately** (12a)
 - A. Do you see yourself and your life accurately? Paul saw room for improvement in himself.
 - B. Paul did not live off of yesterday's grace, he had a deep desire to know Christ more.
 - C. Expect a lifetime of "not attained yet" with a constant and growing desire to know Christ more.
2. **Pursuing our goal relentlessly** (12b-14)
 - A. God has provided our credentials to run the race (citizenship) in Christ Jesus.
 - B. Prioritize him as your highest pursuit. Don't merely dabble in many things.
 - C. Distinguish between activity and ministry--they are not always one and the same.
 - D. If everything is of equal priority, then you have no priorities.
 - E. Grace is greater than your sin. Paralyzed people focus on past failures, growing people focus on forgiveness and future grace and promise.
3. **Developing our maturity collectively** (15-16)
 - A. Paul now purposefully turns from "me" to "us." We grow together.
 - B. "It's easy to grow old in the Lord without growing up in the Lord."
 - C. Constantly see the blessing! If you do not see yourself as blessed, examine what/who you trust.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: What are your weaknesses? What are your failures? Do you ask others to speak into your life? If you asked your closest friends or spouse to identify your strengths and weaknesses, would they do that for you? Would you listen without defensiveness? The thing about blind spots is that we often cannot see them. If Paul needed grace and growth, we do too!
2. Based on #2, above: In Christ Jesus, God has qualified each of his people to compete in the race. Everything you need for life and godliness has come from God himself. Do you take credit for your salvation? Are you prideful about the way you live your life? How does humility and gratitude get communicated in the way you speak, live and serve? How might you grow in this?
3. Based on #2, above: We must distinguish between good activities and true ministry. What are a few good things that you might need to say "no" to in order to say "yes" to the best thing in 2016?
4. Based on #2, above: Reflect on the quote above, "Paralyzed people focus on past failures, growing people focus on forgiveness and future grace and promise." In what way are you paralyzed right now? How can you receive grace and begin to forget the things that are behind you?
5. Based on #3, above: If you do not see yourself as one blessed, you should examine what or who you trust. No matter how hard to day is, we have Christ (he has us!), and we have the hope and reality of heaven in front of us. How can you grow in seeing the blessings from God in 2016 (while admitting that life is often hard or disappointing). In what ways are you trusting in the Lord?