Sermon Questions Philippians 3:12-21

This week we discussed what is needed in order for us to finish well. It doesn't matter how you start, it is how you finish. Clearly, we know that we have reached the finish line when we meet Jesus Christ face to face. The challenge today is that too many believers simply assume that finishing well is a guarantee, but the reality demonstrated that comparatively few believers finish well. In this section of Scripture, the Lord highlights the requirements for finishing well and how we are to live presently in order to see that accomplished in and through our lives.

Please review the sermon notes below...

Focusing on Finishing Well Philippians 3:12-21

Finishing well requires a/an...

Forward Focus:

Releases the <u>past</u> and intentionally pursues the <u>future</u>. (12-14)

Inward Focus:

Reveals the changes needed for <u>continued holy</u> living. (15-16)

Outward Focus:

Replicates the pattern of genuine Christ followers. (17-19)

Upward Focus:

Revels in the believers' true <u>citizenship.</u> (20-21)

Hearing the Word of God and responding to Him is extremely important. If you haven't had the chance to listen to the message from this week, you can <u>watch it here</u>. After watching, please use the following questions (if you find them helpful) in your BRAVE groups (now online every weekday) or discuss them with your family and/or friends. If you are not in a BRAVE Group, now is a great time to get involved. Please go to our <u>online Small Group platform</u> to connect with a group that will work for you.

Questions

- 1. What is the significance of having a future focus in our walk with Jesus Christ?
- 2. Why is releasing the past an imperative for finishing well? What are some of the reasons our past can hinder our walk toward the future? What are some of the successes from

- your past that hinder your moving forward with Christ? What are some of the hurts from your past that hinder your moving forward with Christ?
- 3. How does our future focus with Christ impact our present circumstances and choices we make?
- 4. How can you be more intentional about pursuing the future? In light of the future, what are some specific areas where you need to become more intentional in the present? (family, church, work, relationships, health, etc.)
- 5. How would you describe your current level of personal holiness? Why is our holiness so important to God being able to accomplish His work in and through us?
- 6. Why is living holy a prerequisite to continued holy living? What happens when we refuse to seek the Lord and desire to live by His standards?
- 7. What are some of the ways that the Lord has been challenging you to live more holy? What is keeping you from making choices to align with Christ and live more holy? What fears do you have with holy living? What might you lose if you choose the path of holiness? What might you lose if you don't choose the path of holiness?
- 8. Are you on the "Righteous Road" or the "Reckless Way"? How do you know? Do you need to change direction in your life? How might you stop and pray right now for God to do His work in your life?
- 9. Who do you know that is Christlike and worthy of following? Why? What difference are they making in the kingdom?
- 10. Are you Christlike and worthy of following? Why or why not? What might you need to start doing, stop doing, or start doing differently?
- 11. How often do you consider your true citizenship? What difference does it mean that you are a citizen of the kingdom of heaven?
- 12. As a kingdom citizen, what does it mean to pray, "Let your kingdom come, let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven?"
- 13. How often do you long for Christ's appearing? If you don't long for Him, what are the things that consume your thoughts? How would a focus on Christ change things for you?
- 14. As a result of this week's message and study, what specific ways do you need to respond to Christ to experience the fullness of him?