

SG Questions

Phil 3.12-21

February 24, 2013

1. What have you been “pursuing” this week? Think about where your thoughts, energies and time have gone this week? What are you most excited about “pursuing?” What are you most hopeful of “pursuing” because you expect a great “return” or “payoff?”
2. Compare 3.3-9 and 3.12-21. Have you worked through the areas of the Christian life where we “work” and where we do not--which areas where we “pursue” and which where we do not? Are you comfortable with the position that we ourselves do not “pursue” creating our righteousness with God or restoring relationship with God in ourselves, but that Christ accomplishes this for us completely; but then by treasuring, resting in, and standing on Christ’s work for us, we now are to pursue ever fuller experiences and reality of the intimacy and holiness which form the goal of why Christ took hold of us? Where are your conceptual hangups? Where are your practical confusions or real life hangups? How is this similar and different from Phil 2.12-13?
3. The sermon listed 4 “approaches” or concepts for pursuit. What are they? Which one do you find the most hopeful, encouraging or enlightening? Which one causes you conflict in both seeing hope but also seeing serious personal difficulties with put to practice? How can people in your small group (or your spouse or a friend) help apply the “Christ” and “Gospel” answers to your personal difficulties--perhaps with fresh language to sneak it in your “backdoor” to target your affections? Where can you turn in Philippians to find confidence and healing to get this “pursuit” right?
4. Compare the Christian sense of “forgetting what lies behind and pressing forward” with other religious and philosophical systems that you know. Is it really completely different or just more of the same? How might you communicate this to a friend or neighbor with tact and joy?
5. Who are you imitating? Why? What do you find so special and appealing about them in their faith and character?
6. What is one practice means that you can use this week to better “pursue” God in intimacy and holiness?
7. Spend time praying with thankfulness and praise for how “Christ has taken hold of you,” and pray with confession and request to have God’s Spirit more empower you to pursue to “take hold of Christ.”