

**SCC Small Group Study – March 5, 2023**  
**Dr. Scott Koenigsaecker**  
**Hope Filled Change**  
**Philippians 1:3-6 & 3:12-16**

**Getting Started:**

Tell about a time when an affirmation from someone you respect helped you make a life change

If someone had been observing you during the past week, what would they conclude are your primary goals?

**Searching the Scriptures:**

**Read Philippians 1:3-6**

A. Do you have a person in your life who you always tend to remember and thank God for? (someone you don't see every day). What is it about them that you appreciate the most?

A friend or relative who sticks with you through thick and thin is a rare person indeed. Paul remembered that these people had been faithful to him for almost twelve years "from the first day until now". They hung in there and encouraged him when the going was good and also when it got rough. They were part of his change process and shared in his life, and as verse seven says, they also shared in "God's grace".

B. Why is loyalty such an important quality in our relationships? Has anyone ever told you that they valued your loyalty?

Paul looked at people's future and not just their past. He looked at their potential and was patient with their progress. People don't always finish what they start, but God always does. It's not how far they have to go, but rather how far they have come. A blessing is a picture of a positive future, and it carries much significance. Paul is saying, "I see something in you and I'm confident about it."

C. What do you think the "good work" is, that Paul speaks of?

D. Where do you see God continuing his “good work” in your life or in our church?

**Read Philippians 3:12**

E. What area of your faith are you attempting to grasp more fully right now?

**Read Philippians 3:13-16**

F. Can you think of something from your past that you still need to let go of? What still tends to drag you down and keep you from following Christ with your whole heart?

G. What is the difference between “forgetting what is behind” and “being in denial” about a problem?

**Application of Scripture:**

A. Let go of the past, focus on the future: Make a list of things you should forget - mistakes, failures, privileges, achievements. Also list what you would like to see happen.

B. Join with others: If you have identified a thought pattern or struggle from the past that you need help with, get with another person you trust on a regular basis to pray and hold you accountable for change.

C. Write a note or call someone who you would like to know that you are remembering them this week. In your communication try to comment on the good things you have seen in them, acknowledge their loyalty, and/or observe their progress in their journey of faith.