

Discussion Questions: Focus

Why? – Becoming More Like Jesus – Philippians 3:7-14

Drawn from the September 22, 2024 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: Pastor Jeff encouraged us to “think about what Jesus thinks about”, “see what he wants us to see”, “say what he wants us to say”, and of course “do what he wants us to do”. How do you personally “filter” these behaviors through Jesus?

The SCC Missions statement reads: *Responding to God’s love by inviting people to join us as we become more like Jesus.*

Today’s study will help us answer the question of why we invite others to join us. Ask someone to read Philippians 3:7-14.

Why we want to invite others to join us in becoming more like Jesus

A. Nothing is more important than knowing him

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ. Philippians 3:7-8

1. How did you define success in life prior to knowing Jesus? What is different now?

2. How has what you know of Christ been a gain for you at this point in your life?

B. Religion, ceremony and ritual do not bring contentment

...and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. Philippians 3:9

3. What does “the righteousness from God and is by faith” look like in your life?

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10-11

4. What things do you do to get to know Christ better? Has this focus brought you contentment?
5. How has following Jesus Christ been costly for you? Can you relate to Paul’s desire to be like Christ in his suffering?

C. Jesus heals the past and brings us into his purposes

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14

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

