



New International Version is used for questions

1. Pastor Rick said that there are three things we do that negatively affect our ability to press on and be the best we can be for God, what are they? Do you know anyone who it seems they are still living in the past? What happens when we do?
2. Read Philippians 3:1-9 What was Paul's resume as a Jew? How did he view all of the things he had accomplished in the past? Why do you think he viewed them that way? What did he value as the most important thing in life? How can we tell what we really value in our lives?
3. In verse 9, what does Paul say a person has as a result of being found in Christ? What does this mean? What is the difference between our position in Christ and our daily lives?
4. Read Philippians 3:10-14. What was Paul's deepest desire? What do you think he meant when he said he wanted to become like Christ in his death? Paul says his goal was to "press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me", what do you think that means? Did Paul think he would ever attain this goal? What did Paul do about his failures in the past? What do we need to learn from what Paul tells us about persistence in this passage?
5. Read Philippians 3:15-19. What does Paul say having the view of life that he has been talking about is a sign of? What does he say God will do if you do not view things this way? Paul told them to follow his example and the example of others who were living this way. How important is it to you to have someone in your life that you can use as a pattern of how to live as a Christian? Can other people use your life as a pattern? Should they be able to? Who should you not be following as an example?
6. Read Philippians 2:20,21. What does it mean that our citizenship is in heaven? Paul says that when Jesus comes, he will change our physical body into one that is like his body. Read 1 Corinthians 15: 50-53. Why do we need to get a different body? When does this happen?

look to what others admire. When we live in the past, we miss completely what God wants us to do in the present and we will either rest on what we have done or believe that we cannot accomplish anything because of past failures.

2. *Basically Paul's resume was that he had attained the highest position you could as a Jew living at that time in the things he had done in the past. He viewed all of that achievement as a waste of time because it did not factor in the most important thing: Christ. His highest value in life was to know Christ personally and intimately. We can tell what we value in life based on how much of our time and effort that we devote to something.*
3. *Paul says that anyone who is in Christ has the very righteousness of God put to his account. This means that God views us as being as righteous (perfect) as Christ himself. Our position is what God has done for us and given us as a result of our salvation, how He views us from a spiritual point of view. Our practice is how we live in this physical world. Positionally we are perfect, already seated with Christ in heaven (Ephesians 2:6). Practically we still have a sinful nature and still sin.*
4. *Paul's deepest desire was to know Christ personally and to completely fulfill everything that God wanted him to do while on this earth. To become like Christ in his death was to die to himself and to his own desires and to follow the risen Christ. To take hold of that which Christ had taken hold of him was to live his life as close to the perfection, the position that he had in Christ as he could in this sinful body, to become as much like Christ as he possibly could. Paul knew he could never attain this goal in this present life, but that did not prevent him from striving to accomplish it by God's power. He forgot the mistakes of the past and did not let them hinder him from striving to be better in the future. If we are to serve Christ as much as we possibly can, we must adopt this same forward-looking attitude and not let the past stop us from achieving what God wants to do through us in the future.*
5. *Having this forward-looking view is a sign of spiritual maturity, seeing life the way Christ does. If you do not have this view, God will be working on you to adopt this way of looking at your life. It is important to have people who are further along in their spiritual growth than you that you can pattern yourself after and emulate. We should grow to the point where we can say "Follow me as I follow Christ". We should ask ourselves, "If a person followed my example, what kind of Christian would they be"? We should not follow the example of anyone who does not value their relationship with Christ as being the most important thing in their lives.*
6. *We should think of our lives here on this earth as a short, passing moment and that this earth is not our home. We should not make ourselves at home here because our true citizenship is in heaven for eternity. We need a new body because this one cannot last for eternity. We are given our new bodies when Christ comes for the church at the rapture.*