

Sunday, October 24, 2021 - "Relationship Matters - Week 7 - Focused on the Goal" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Philippians 3:12-21, Philippians 3:8-11, Ephesians 4:15

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- All truth is God's truth
 - Harvard study found what scripture has said
 - Relationships —> health, happiness, longer life
- Philippians answers the questions, "How can we have relationships that are healthy?"
- Philippians 3:12-21 (Critical to finish well)
- Running race metaphor
 - What is the goal? Philippians 3:8-11
 - Gain Christ
 - Be found in Him
 - Know Him and the power of his resurrection
 - Share his suffering
 - Become like Him in his death
 - First two goals are about justification and we get them as free gifts when we place our faith in Jesus
 - Goals 3,4,5 are about sanctification (the process of being transformed and becoming more like God)
 - Ephesians 4:15a
 - Show up to grow up (we have to participate)
- We are a mosaic striving to live like Jesus (striving = participating in our sanctification and living and loving like Jesus)
- Power of the resurrection
 - Same power in us
 - It makes it possible for us to grow at all. It changes our lives
- Share His sufferings
 - NIV = Participation in his suffering. NKJV = fellowship of His sufferings
 - We have a connection with Jesus in our suffering
 - Promise to be with us
 - We grow up and experience Jesus through our suffering
 - Hebrews: Jesus learned obedience through suffering
 - We seldom learn apart from pain (But it can be redeemed)
- Become like Him in his death
 - We sometimes miss eternity in our thinking
 - Paul is talking about eternity
 - We will be physically like Jesus...our bodies will be redeemed like Jesus' body was
- v13: We have not arrived, it's a life long journey
 - When God moves we want to stay there but he wants to move again and for us to keep pushing forward
 - When we strain for the wrong thing, we toil in vain

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What does it look like for you to press on towards the goal in your life right now?
2. When was a time that you understood or experienced the power of the resurrection in a new way?
3. How have you experienced a connection to Jesus in your suffering?
4. What have you learned about God and following him through pain?
5. Have you ever realized your were straining for the wrong thing? What did you learn from that experience?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Philippians 4 Tues: Colossians 1 Wed: Colossians 2 Thurs: Colossians 3 Fri: Colossians 4

Songs from the weekend: [Mountaintops- *The Belonging Co.*] - [Showing Me Mercy - *Norflette Shumake*] - [Build My Life - *Pat Barrett*] - [Great Are You Lord - *All Sons and Daughters*]