

Keep Your Eyes On The Prize

Read Philippians 3:1-21, then briefly consider the questions below.

This week in Sunday School, the kids will learn that Christ's work on the cross is greater than any earthly accomplishment we could achieve. If anyone had reason for religious boasting in ancient days, it was Paul. He himself acknowledges the flawless nature of his resume, and just as quickly he points out its emptiness. All of Paul's titles were worthless apart from knowing Christ (Phil 3:8).

Today, we are faced with the same identity crisis as Paul once faced. It is so easy to find our identity in our gifts, accomplishments, career, etc. By themselves, these things are not evil, but they were never meant to define who we are, or to be the primary focus of our lives.

- Take a moment to write down some of your greatest accomplishments in life thus far.

- Be honest with yourself and consider, how are you pursuing Christ through these accomplishments?

The future with all of its unknown can oftentimes feel overwhelming. Fears for the wellbeing of our families or the consequences of major decisions can plague our minds and keep us awake at night. This way of thinking can become all consuming. Thankfully, we are given such freedom and reassurance in Christ.

- In Phil 3:13-14, what is Paul's attitude as he approaches the future?

- What fears and anxieties do you have about the future? Are you willing to surrender these to Jesus in order "press on toward the prize"?

Let's pray:

Father, thank you for sending Your Son to achieve the greatest accomplishment there is. There is nothing we could accomplish on earth that would even begin to compare. Please forgive us for clinging so tightly to our titles and for allowing them to define who we are. Please help us to strive after knowing You and give us the strength to approach the unknown with confidence. Help us to deny the world around us, and remind us of where our citizenship lies.

In Your Name we pray,

Amen.