

SERMON NOTES



This week's sermon

NEXT INITIATIVE: Part 1

Don't Look Back, Strain Forward

Philippians 3:7-17

Paul counts all the good things of his life as trash- worthy of losing for the sake of what he will gain: Christ, righteousness that comes by faith, the power to share Jesus' sufferings, the resurrection from the dead.

"13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained. 17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us."

I'm calling us to change, risk, and commitment! I'm calling us to be like Paul by "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

The Next Initiative: A challenge to raise our giving number to 4 million dollars in the next two years. This money will be used to further the mission you are familiar with...

- to see more campuses planted.
- to call more men and women to work at Harvest to bring about growth.
- to update our technologies and maximize our facilities.
- to reach more of the world with the gospel.

Digging Deeper into the Message

Read Philippians 3:7-17 and answer the questions that follow.

What does Paul, the writer of this passage, lose and what does he gain in verse 8?

What other three things does Paul say we gain in Christ? (verses 9-11)

What are some good things that you have had to give up for Jesus up to this point? How has it been worth it? Would you do it again?

What is the goal that Paul is pressing towards in verse 14?

Who is supposed to think this way? (verse 15) So on the flip side, how do you think those who are *not* mature would think?

What is Paul's last charge in verse 17?

Why do you think he uses the endearing term "brothers" here?

Who are we supposed to keep our eyes on in verse 17?

Who are some people in your life that you can keep your eyes on as you press towards the goal of the call of Jesus? List them here.

Community Group

ICEBREAKER: Where are you in Harvest's history? Share about when you came to Harvest and the impact Harvest has had on your life.

QUESTIONS:

- ❖ Read the front of the MAP.
- ❖ Spend some time sharing your thoughts on the NEXT initiative.
- ❖ Have you identified yourself on the giving ladder?
- ❖ Pastor Mike started the sermon by telling the story of what God had done for the Apostle Paul. What about you? What's the story of God working in your life?
- ❖ As you look back on your life, do you think God is done with your story? What do you think might be part of his plans for your future?
- ❖ As you look back at the life of Harvest, do you think God is done using our church to impact the world? What are some of the things Pastor Mike envisioned for the future of Harvest that you can get excited about?
- ❖ For more discussion, material, do the Digging Deeper portion of the MAP.

APPLICATION: Find yourself on the giving ladder. Spend some time in prayer, asking God, "what commitment do you want me to make to my church?"