



Sunday, July 26, 2020

The Pursuit of God

Sermon by Pastor Zach Prosser

Care Group Discussion Guide Celebration Church

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Key Text: Philippians 3:7-14

Why Should We Pursue God?

- **To Know Him (Philippians 3:7-8; Ephesians 3:17-19)**
 - The word “know” is the Greek word *ginosko*, which means “to know through personal experience” or “intimacy.”
 - Saving faith is an ongoing desire for Christ over all other things (Ephesians 3:17).
 - We should pursue Him as if we were looking for a hidden treasure (Matthew 13:44).
- **To Demonstrate Justification and Righteousness (Philippians 3:9)**
 - Justification by faith is demonstrated in our pursuit of God.
- **To Experience His Resurrection Life (Philippians 3:12; Jeremiah 15:16; John 4:14, 6:63)**
 - Having a doom and gloom attitude is like hanging out in the cemetery after Jesus has raised you from the dead.
- **To Experience His Sovereignty and Protection (Philippians 3:12; Psalm 139:5)**

How Do We Pursue God?

- **Develop a Holy Dissatisfaction (Philippians 3:7-8)**
 - Don’t be satisfied with the things of the world.
 - Focus on the joy in God that you have yet to receive.
- **Forget What is Behind (Philippians 3:13-14; Psalm 77:11; Acts 3:19)**
 - The Passion Translation Notes for Acts 3:19: Peter uses the Greek word *epistrepho* which means “turn back to God” or “be converted”. We need to not only repent but to return home to God’s grace and truth. This is a Hebraic thought of returning to the Lord God (the Hebrew word *shuv*). Every Jew would know what that means: “Come back to God!” Repentance and return is more than a passive changing of one’s mind. The Greek word used here, *exaleipho*, means “obliterated,” “canceled,” or “cooling breeze,” which occurs only here in the New Testament. This alludes to the time when God walked with Adam in “the cool of the day” (Genesis 3:8). **The work of the cross begins the restoration of Paradise within the hearts of Christ’s followers.**
- **Press Toward What Lies Ahead (Philippians 3:13-14; I Corinthians 9:25-27)**
 - Pursue God with all of your might (Psalm 63:8; Hosea 6:1-3; Mark 12:30).