



BYOB READ TOGETHER: PHILIPPIANS

WEEK 4 - PRESSING TOWARD THE GOAL
JANUARY 23/24, 2021

OVERVIEW

As we continue living as Christ-followers in this broken world, awaiting the redemption and resurrection of creation through Christ, there is always a temptation in front of us: to drift and lose steam, allowing the challenges of this life to form us back into the mold of our old selves. Because of this, Paul encourages us to press forward with strength and endurance, remembering our citizenship and allowing the example of Jesus to shape every aspect of our lives. Again, this is the path not only to life but to joy.

*I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.
Philippians 3:14*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you allowed the challenges of your life to shape you this week?
2. How have you allowed the example of Jesus to shape your life this week?
3. Maron said Paul was showing the Philippians that "an attitude of joy comes by choice" (Philippians 2:17-18). Why is it sometimes hard to make this choice a reality?
4. In Philippians 3:1, Paul says, "*Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, I rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.*" How do you see this as "safeguarding your faith"?
5. How does keeping our eyes on Jesus help us develop endurance? (Hebrews 12: 1b-2)
6. Why is it important to forget the past and look forward to what lies ahead? (Philippians 3:12-13)
7. Share some practical ways of letting go of what is behind you and learning to trust God with your future.
8. Going along with Paul's running metaphor, how can Christians "train" in order to successfully run the race?

Prayerfully consider Maron's questions:

9. What is threatening your focus right now? (worry, fear, busy-ness, life moving too quickly?)
10. What is weighing you down, and slowing you down? What is threatening your endurance? (regret, anger, sorrow, sin habit?)
11. What is threatening to steal your joy and thereby steal your very strength? What is the thing you can't let go of?

RESOURCES

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