



**Pathway Visalia Men's ministry:  
July 6th-"Value of Knowing Christ"  
"Philippians"**



This next Pathway Men's Ministry meeting will be on July 6th at 6:30 pm. For those who were unable to attend and for anyone interested, we post the study on our Pathway Visalia website. I pray that you will be able to join us. It is such a blessing to share with one another. Below is an overview of the topics that we will discuss as we work our way through the book of Philippians.

## **THE PRICELESS VALUE OF KNOWING CHRIST**

### **Philippians 3:12-21**

12 “I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things **(the goal of being Christlike)**; or that I have already reached perfection.

**QUESTION:** Why do you think Paul added this?

**QUESTION:** What do you think it means to; **“be Christlike”**?

But I actively press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me **(and He took hold of me and made me His own)**. 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

**QUESTION:** Share your personal goals - what are you pressing on to possess?

**QUESTION:** Share your experience of how Christ took hold of you and made you His own.

**QUESTION:** **"but I focus on this one thing:"** - Where is your focus tonight? And why is it helpful to focus on one thing at a time?

**QUESTION:** What challenges do you have in; **"forgetting the past"**?

**QUESTION:** Forgetting the past can also mean not focusing on past accomplishments that the Lord used you in. The question is, what is the Lord doing currently in your life?

**QUESTION:** What obstacles do you face as you; **"press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize"**?

15 Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. 16 But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

**QUESTION:** What does: **"spiritual maturity"** look like?

**QUESTION:** **"agree on these things"** – define **"these things"**

**QUESTION:** Have you experienced a group of mature Christians who had to make a decision where there was a disagreement? How did that process go?

**QUESTION:** Then Paul ends this section by saying; **“we must hold on to the progress we have already made”**. What does it look like in your life?

**17** Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. **18** For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ (**rejecting and opposing His way of Salvation**).

**QUESTION:** **“pattern your lives after mine”** - what pattern does your life show to others?

**QUESTION:** **“learn from those who follow our example”** - what do you do to follow good Biblical examples?

**QUESTION:** Do you have someone that you follow as a good Biblical example - what do you seek to emulate?

**QUESTION:** **“there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ”** – Conduct, or fruit, is a truth detector - Have there been people in your life that you thought were Christians, or they thought that they were Christians, but their actions show that they are not?

**19** They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth.

**QUESTION:** Picking up on the last question, how can we lovingly point out to a unbelieving person that their truth detector failed?

**QUESTION:** Appetite - an **inherent** craving. How is your appetite for the Lord? Are you craving to get to know Him better in your life? **It's a good question to ask on a regular basis.**

**QUESTION: “they brag about shameful things”** - We don't brag about shameful things - but we do often have issues with pride. What do you do to keep pride in check in your life?

**20** But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.  
**21** He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.”

**QUESTION: “But we are citizens of heaven”** - Share about times where you felt like an alien here on earth since you are a citizen of heaven?

**QUESTION:** Let's talk about times in our lives where we were eagerly waiting for something or for someone. What feelings did you have and what preparations did you do?

**QUESTION: “He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own”** - Share your thoughts about how our mortal bodies are weak, both physically and spiritually?

**4:1** Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work.

**QUESTION: “Therefore”** - what is it “there for”? - Let's relook at vs. 20 & 21 - What in those verses would help you to; **“Stay true the Lord”**?

**QUESTION:** How would you explain the love that believers have for one another - often stronger than for blood relatives.

**QUESTION:** Do you have a person in your life that you have exceeding joy about because of their relationship with Christ?