

Community Group Discussion Questions

November 5, 2017 – *Joyful Hope* – Philippians 3:12-21

Big Idea: Run the race to win the prize.

Key Verse: ***“But one thing I do: 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.”*** Philippians 3:13-14

Outline:

Run the Race:

- Our Efforts and Endurance are not the Basis of our salvation but are the Proof of it.
- The Way of Salvation is by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone.
- “It isn’t Good people who go to heaven; Forgiven people do.” Andy Stanley

Pitfalls to Avoid	Signposts to Follow
1. The Deception of <u>Performance</u> – we are not working to earn the love of Christ but because we have the love of Christ (v. 12)	1. Entrust yourself completely to Jesus (3:3)
2. The Danger of <u>Presumption</u> – justifying self-indulgence in the name of Christian freedom	2. Work to make Progress toward maturity in Christ (vv. 12-14)
3. The Delusion of <u>Perfection</u> – the test of maturity in Christ is an increasing Awareness of sin	3. Embrace the virtue of Humility (vv. 12-15)
4. The Distractions of the <u>Past</u> – avoid being sidetracked by past Achievements or Failures (v. 13)	4. Focus your entire life on the Final Goal (v. 14)

To Win the Prize

- Finally Home (vv. 18-20)
- Perfectly Holy (v. 12)
- Completely Whole (vv. 20-21)

Get Started:

1. What is the longest distance you have ever run? Have you ever considered running a Marathon? Why or why not?

Get your Mind into the Word:

2. Read Philippians 3:12-21
3. How does Paul describe his commitment to growing in Christ? Why is so much effort needed?

4. Is Paul saying here that we must work hard to earn our salvation? Why or why not?

5. What was Paul's problem with the false teachers he describes in vv. 18-19? How should believer's mindset and discipline be different from these teachers according to vv. 20-21?

Get the Word into your Life:

6. Which of the four pitfalls do you struggle with most? What helps you avoid these dangers and follow the signposts of growth instead?

7. Which of the three prizes in heaven are most encouraging to you? How does it help you to think about the "finish line" to endure the struggles of the race?

8. How can we pray for you this week as you "run the race to win the prize"?

Verse of the Month:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7