

## B. To Be Obsessed with Jesus, Go After The Right Things.

### 1. Pursue Jesus, To Know Him and be Like Him.

*I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,<sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.* Philippians 3:10-11

### 2. Orientate your life Around Eternity.

*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.<sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 3:12-14  
*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.* Philippians 1:21

### 3. Take Risks for Christ and His Kingdom.

*Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.<sup>24</sup> Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.<sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,<sup>26</sup> I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.<sup>27</sup> I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.* 2 Corinthians 11:23-27

### 4. Be a Giver, not a Taker.

*As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you,<sup>7</sup> but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.<sup>8</sup> We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.<sup>9</sup> Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.* 1 Thessalonians 2:6b-9

**The very best thing you can do is to be Faithful to your Savior.**

## Are You Obsessed?

Philippians 3:4b-14

GOD calls you to be Consumed with Jesus and to faithfully live out His Words.

*But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,* Philippians 3:13b

## A. To Be Obsessed with Jesus, Leave Some Things Behind.

Paul left behind...

### 1. A great Position/Career.

*If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:<sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;<sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.* Philippians 3:4b-6

### 2. His Works—Based Approach to please GOD.

*But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.<sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.*

Philippians 3:7-9

### 3. His past Sins and Failures.

*Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.<sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.* 1 Timothy 1:15-16

### 4. His past Hurts and Disappointments.

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;<sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.<sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.* 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

## **Faith@Home**

Commit yourself to spending time with GOD and His Word on at least five days this week. Read the Bible passage(s) listed.

Ask GOD for understanding. Reflect on the verses you read and write down your answers to the question(s). Pray that GOD will guide you to walk in His Word.

### **Day One**

Read Philippians 3:4b-10

1. What are some of the things Paul once used as his “claim to fame,” his efforts to earn GOD’s favor?
2. Why did he leave all these things behind? What had he found in Christ that made all these past things equivalent to rubbish?
3. What does it mean to pursue knowing Christ (verse 10)?  
What are you doing to do that?

### **Day Two**

Read Philippians 3:11-14

1. When Paul writes “one thing I do,” what does that demonstrate to you?
2. What are things you need to leave behind in order to grow in Christ?
3. What are you doing to press on toward the goal?  
How do you know if you are making progress?

### **Day Three**

Read I Timothy 1:12-17

1. Before Paul became a Christian, what had he done that caused him to call himself the “worst of sinners”?
2. What do you think GOD’s grace and mercy meant to Paul?  
What do they mean to you?
3. Are you willing to turn all your sins and past failures over to GOD so that you can move forward in knowing and following Jesus?

### **Day Four**

Read 2 Corinthians 11: 21a-29

1. What are some of the things Paul experienced as a servant of Jesus Christ?
2. In spite of all that, he continued to take risks and put his life on the line for the gospel. How do you think he was able to do that?
3. What risks are you taking in your walk with Jesus? Are there new risks or steps of faith He is calling you to take?

### **Day Five**

Read Psalm 28

1. What are some of the things David prays for in this Psalm?
2. What does it mean to you that GOD is your “Rock,” “Strength,” and “Shield”?
3. Does this fact, that GOD is your strength, help you to be able to take great risks in your service to Him?
4. Pray for our worship gathering on Sunday.