

DISCUSSION GUIDE

MARCH 7/8 | TOGETHER

CHECK YOUR PASSPORT! | PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21



FOR STARTERS

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, what caught your attention, challenged you or raised questions?
2. If you could be a dual citizen, what country would you pick and why?

DIGGING IN

1. By God's grace Paul is confident about his future—he's going to heaven (3:11). What's the basis for his confidence? First, where it's not (3:4-8) and then where it is (3:9)?
2. As confident as he is about his future in heaven, how does Paul describe where he was spiritually? Look at verses 12-13a?
3. Paul, the author of Philippians, often used running or race metaphors to describe Christian life. Paraphrase Philippians 3:13-14 in your own words and then look at the following verses for more of Paul's teaching: 1 Corinthians 9:24-26, Galatians 5:7, 2 Timothy 4:7-8.
4. Paul's made it clear, he's not perfect and he hasn't arrived, but at the same time, he encourages them to follow his example. What should they imitate? Look at 3:10-14.
 - a. Who shouldn't they imitate (verses 18-19)?
 - i. Why are they called enemies of the cross of Christ and not simply enemies of Christ?
 - ii. The main point is don't run with the wrong crowd. What kind of people is he talking about? Look at verses 18-19.

5. What we believe about the future greatly determines how we live our lives today. Paul describes the difference when he talks about citizens of heaven and citizens of earth. Describe the difference using verses 18b-21.
6. What does the Bible say about our future resurrected bodies and how is that important to us today? Look at Paul's extensive teaching on this subject in 1 Corinthians 15:42-58.

BRINGING IT HOME

1. What's one thing God is teaching you from this week's message that is encouragement and one thing that is corrective?
2. Is my eye on the prize (Jesus) or stuck in the past? What kinds of things from a Christ-follower's past could hold us back and how does what Jesus did on the cross free us to move ahead?
3. Who or what crowd are you running with? Are they making you more like Christ or leading you away from Him? Who would be a good godly model to follow and what's your next step? How about buying them breakfast or coffee and asking them three key questions?
4. How is your view of the future shaping how you live today and does your view leave you with hope or lead you to despair?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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