



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, January 16, 2022 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

“Struggling Well: Through Our Eyes on the True Prize”

Philippians 3:13-21

1. We struggle well when we forget what we used to count on and strain for intimacy with God.
(Philippians 3:13-16)

2. We struggle well when we imitate others who struggle well.
(Philippians 3:17-19)

3. We struggle well when we live like we know where we belong.
(Philippians 3:20-21)

Table Talk

- 1) What have been some things that you have counted on in the past that God is calling you to forget? (v.13) Why is it important to know that verse 13 is NOT about forgetting our hurts and pains in the past but rather the things that we have boasted about in the past?
- 2) How do you strike the right balance between trust in the providence of God and yet “pressing on” for the goal of the upward call of God? (v. 14) What do you need to do to be more intentional about that “pressing on”? (v. 14) Do you find it easy to forget lessons that you have learned in the past? What can be done to avoid forgetting those lessons? (vv. 15-16) How might God reveal ways that we are thinking wrongly? (v. 15)
- 3) What practical advice does Paul next give for struggling well? (v. 17) Who in your world is an example of “pressing on” that you would like to imitate? (v. 17) Is it arrogant of Paul to ask his readers to follow his example? (see v. 17 and also 1 Cor. 4:16, 11:1; 1 Thess. 1:6) How does understanding the rabbinic tradition of “walking” help us here?
- 4) What is Paul’s heart for those who walk as enemies of the cross of Christ? (v. 18) What can we do to cultivate such a heart? Why does Paul weep over these people and their position as enemies of the cross? (v. 19) Why should the future condition of the lost break our hearts? Why should the present condition of the lost break our hearts?
- 5) What is the significance of our citizenship being in heaven? How does the anticipation of Christ’s return help us to struggle well? When Jesus returns, what will happen to our body? How does that reveal Christ’s power? (vv. 20-21)