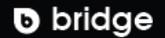




HOME
CHURCH

 bridge

Pressing On

Sunday, August 23, 2020



TALK
ABOUT IT

- What are you looking forward to over the next school year?



PRAYER

As we look forward as a church, we are looking to Jesus. He is the one who gives us the endurance to keep running the race. He is the one we are telling the world about. Read Hebrews 12:1-2 and then pray in your own words:

Hebrews 12:1-2

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

(more on next page)



SERMON +
WORSHIP

Watch this week's Sermon and Worship Set
(reminder, it's easiest to watch it from the YouTube playlist)



TALK
ABOUT IT

- **Pastor Jeff started by reminding us of our mission as a church: Inviting the striving to something really real. This is our way of explaining the Great Commission.**
 - Read Matthew 28:18-20. How does our mission explain the Great Commission?
 - How does reminding ourselves of the Great Commission help us to look forward instead of backward?
- **The Judaizers in Philippi prioritized the wrong things, like circumcision. Paul challenges believers to count everything as loss compared to Jesus.**
 - In what ways are you trying to 'earn your salvation'? What religious activities/titles do you take too much pride in?
 - What do you need to count as loss compared to the 'surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus'?
- **Paul wants to share in the sufferings of Jesus, we often want to avoid suffering.**
 - What are some Bible stories where God used suffering to build intimacy with His people? How did Jesus suffer? Remind one another of these stories/truths.
 - Do you have a personal story of suffering building your intimacy with God?

(more on next page)



PRACTICE POINTS

- **In verse 8, Paul says Jesus is ‘my Lord’. How is your relationship with Jesus right now? In what ways are you struggling to follow Him as your Lord?**
 - Spend time in God’s Word every morning this week to build that relationship.
- **Pastor Jeff challenged us to forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead. What is stopping you from pressing on toward the goal?**
 - Write down the things that may be stopping you: distractions, relationship troubles, job struggles, health issues, etc. Take all of those in prayer to God this week and ask Him how to look forward in the midst of those issues.
- **For those who have been a disciple of Jesus for a while, take time this week to reassess if following Jesus lands as the top priority in your life? Is it simply a priority? Or is it the center of your life?**



DIG DEEPER

Want additional content to dive into during the week? Try this:

These prompts can be used one-per-day or for an extended time on your own, with your spouse or family members, or with your small group:

- **Philippians 3 brings to the forefront the honors race of Roman culture. Roman culture is considered an honor/shame culture, meaning much of what people strived for was higher honor in public. This shapes much of Paul’s discourse with the Philippians.**

- Rome was a culture fascinated with building honor (the ‘honors race’). You built honor through family ties, titles, wealth, military service, rhetorical ability, etc.
 - *Reread Philippians 3. How do verses 4-6 show Paul’s place in the honors race? How do verses 7-8 show what he thought of the honors race?*
- While Paul thought little of this honors race, the Philippian church struggled with it. Take some time to read the first few verses of all of Paul’s church letters: Romans, 1 and 2 Cor., Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thess.
 - *How does Paul introduce himself in each of these letters, and what is unique about Philippians?*
 - *How does Paul address the church in each of these letters, and what is unique about Philippians?*
 - *Why is it significant that Philippians is the only letter where Paul only calls himself a servant (and not also an apostle) and is also the only letter Paul uses titles (bishops and deacons) to address the church?*
 - *Knowing the struggle for honor in Philippi, what problems does this unique introduction point out?*
- The Philippian church struggled with an affinity for titles and honor, which was not something everyone could achieve in the ancient world. Read Philippians 2:1-11.
 - *How does Paul address this divide within the church?*
 - *How does the example of Jesus destroy the race for honor?*
- Read Acts 16:11-40, the story of Paul coming to Philippi. Paul waits until after he is jailed and beaten to tell the officials that he is a Roman citizen. Why would he wait to do this when he could have avoided the jail time and beating? What type of example did it set? (Hint: Only about a third of the church in Philippi would have had the honor to be Roman citizens)
 - *How is this an example of Paul living out what he wrote in Philippians 2:3-4?*
 - *How is this also an example of Paul sharing in the sufferings of Jesus?*
- The point of all of this history is to show how Paul taught the Philippian church to care less about honor and more about Jesus!
 - *In what ways do you need to care less about honor (job title, wealth/materials, having the best house, etc.) and more about Jesus?*