

SERMON NOTES Sunday 28th January

sunnysidechurch

Trusting in Christ: Philippians 3.1-14

There is a flier giving an outline and some background for our series on Paul's letter to the Philippians. Please pick up your copy from the lobby.

Sermon outline

Introduction

Paul's driving motive is to know Christ and this keeps him pressing on towards the goal of being with Christ.

How do we press on towards the goal?

1. forgetting what is behind
Paul knows that he cannot get there by his own efforts
2. fixing our minds on the goal
Paul is single-minded in his desire to know Christ more and become more like him
3. see the goal and do what is necessary to get there
Paul is honest about his progress but focussed on Christ

Conclusion

Knowing Christ is the greatest gift in the world so let's 'press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called [us] heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (v14)

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Some questions for discussion

1. If someone asked you what your goal is, how would you answer them?
2. Lots of people see Christianity as a list of dos and (lots more) don'ts.
 - Why might this be?
 - How would you describe Christianity?
3. Paul recognises that the things he used to depend on will not earn him the prize he seeks. Do you find this encouraging or challenging (or both)?
4. What might it be helpful for you to let go of so you can press on more freely towards the goal? In which areas of your life is God asking you to trust Jesus more?
5. Paul said: 'I want to know Christ' (v10). What have you been learning about Christ this week and how is it helping you to abound more and more in love?
6. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through this passage? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

Why not take some time to pray that you would know Christ even more in the days ahead and that the Holy Spirit would help you to become ever more like him? You could also pray this for us as a church family at Sunnyside and those who are taking part in the Alpha course?

Revd Rebecca Fardell

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