

Philippians: Week 10 Study Questions

Philippians 3:12-16

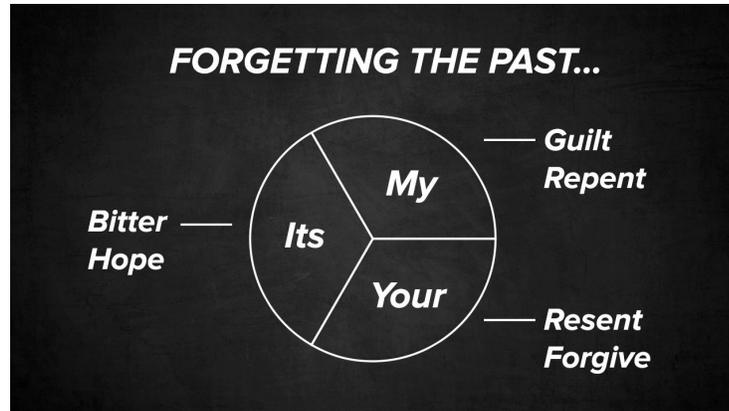
Knowing Jesus is infinitely more valuable than anything this world can offer us. However, we don't drift into a life of knowing and pursuing Him; we come to know Him intimately through pursuit, effort, and discipline when His previous work in our heart meets our present response.

Application

1. God's offer of Himself to us is infinitely more valuable than all human abilities, achievements, and possessions combined. What do you tend to find more value in than Christ?
2. We are to train and aggressively pursue God, not just try. How have you seen a difference in seasons of your life where you have "trained" to know Christ versus "tried" to know Christ? What does it look like to train to know Christ?
3. Chris Curtis reminded us that our past should inform us, not define us. What from your past have you let define you? How can you change this? In what ways would this remove bitterness, guilt, and resentment from your life?
4. How has God been faithful to you over the years? What does it mean for you to remember these things "correctly"—with proper perspective? How can you remind yourself of these events to motivate you to pursue Him more diligently?

Key Points

- In this passage, perfection does not mean sinlessness, it means maturity.
- The context of the language in Philippians 3:12 is both war and athletics. Paul uses an aggressive tone, meaning to pursue Christ violently (war-like) and to train ourselves like an athlete in pursuing Him. It is *this* kind of energy and discipline that it takes to know and experience the One who is of infinite value.
- "Grace, we must learn, is opposed to earning, not to effort." —Dallas Willard. You cannot *earn* grace; however, living out that grace and partaking in grace *is* about effort.
- How do we pursue God?
 - The way we view ourselves: we should have a holy discontent and dissatisfaction of our spiritual lives that motivates our pursuit of Christ.
 - Forget the past: we should remember our pasts with perspective, knowing that it helps inform who we are but it does not define us.



In the slide that Chris used to explain forgetting the past (above), the circle represents bad things. “My bad,” meaning something you did wrong and you feel guilt for but should respond with repentance; “your bad,” meaning something someone has done to you and you feel resentment but your healthy response is forgiveness; and “its bad,” meaning something bad has happened to you, and you are living in the world of “if only I had ...” and you feel bitterness. Your healthy response is hope—not that He will fix everything but that your future with Him is far greater—it outshines whatever you *could* have had.

- Strain forward. We become frustrated and are quick to run to sin because we are *trying* all the time instead of *training*. Our motivation and urge for straining and training towards Him is initiated by God but must be worked out by us.
- If you feel low on energy to pursue Christ, beg God to saturate your mind that He has taken hold of you and put that truth before you day in and day out.

Scripture References

[Matthew 11:12](#)

[Mark 2:1-12](#)

[1 Corinthians 9:26-27](#)