

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Read Philippians 3:10-4:1 Make 2-3 observations of what you see in the text and note any questions you have. Try to answer your questions by using information you find in the passage. Then answer some or all of the questions below.

What is Paul's goal? What is it that he hopes to obtain or attain to?

Paul speaks of trying to "take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me"

When you consider your relationship to Jesus and your Christian faith do you tend to think of Jesus as someone you have accepted, or do you think of yourself as someone Jesus has accepted?

What is the difference between the two? Does it matter?

What does it mean for Jesus to "take hold" of you?

According to vs 12, what is the purposes of Jesus taking hold of us?

Paul speaks of forgetting what is behind and focusing on what is ahead (vs 13)

What do you think he means by this? What is ahead?

How can focusing on what is to come help us deal with past hurts and live in the present more fully?

Are there past things you need to let go of so you can focus on Jesus?

In vs 16 Paul encourages us to live up to what we have already attained.

What have we already attained?

What does it mean to live up to this?

Paul instructs the Philippians to pattern (imitate) their walk on his and on others who walk like him.

How do you feel when you hear this? Why?

Could you confidently and humbly say this to others? Why/why not?

Practically speaking, how do we do this?

Paul speaks of people who walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

Why does he specify that they are enemies of the cross?

Where do we see modern examples of such people today?

Where do you see patterns like this in your own life?

Are there places the Spirit is prompting you to repent?

Paul reminds us that we are waiting for Christ's return from heaven.

What is the difference between waiting to go to heaven and waiting for Christ to return from heaven? Does it matter? Why/why not?

How does the promise of resurrection and new creation fill us with hope?

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