

Week 8: Phil. 3:12-4:1
Joy in Exhaustion

THE
REBEL'S
GUIDE to JOY

Start by reading Phil. 3:12-4:1 for an overview of the passage.

Context

In the last section, Paul exposed the functional saviors in our lives to the light where they shrivel compared to the work and Power of Jesus' death and resurrection. Today, Paul admits that he has not attained perfection but he is continuing to abide in Christ and yearn for sanctification. We are encouraged to imitate those who image Jesus and grieve for those who have chosen to live in opposition to the gospel. In light of this we are called to live immitigable lives and stand firm in the truth to keep us from the consequences of walking as enemies of the cross.

Press Forward

Read verses 3:12-16

How does Paul's admission in verse 12 encourage or discourage you?

How can you practically abide in Jesus, strain for sanctification, without taking credit for His work?

What does it mean to "forget what lies behind"?

What sins/issues do you need to address and repent of so that you can press forward?

If you are honest, what goals do you press toward in your daily life?

How does your life look different if you pressed toward the call of God in Jesus Christ?

Assess your maturity through Paul's challenge in verse 16, how do you fair?

Be Imitatable

Read verse 3:17-4:1

What does it look like to imitate Paul?

Think of others in your life who are imitable, what do their lives look like?

How do verses 18-19 affect you?

By what means are you or aren't you protected against becoming one of these people?

What does it mean to be a citizen of Heaven?

How do you live differently out that citizenship vs. being a citizen of the world?

Reflection and Prayer

Take time this week to pray for the following:

Thank Jesus for exposing your functional savior.

Against complacency and passivity toward the gospel

For a clear understanding of the prize toward which we strive

For strength to press forward toward sanctification

For those who have walked away from truth and appose the gospel through their actions

For imitable lives

That we would stand firm in the Lord