

Recap of 1/17/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Philippians 3:1-14):

1. Paul's challenge to the Philippians in 3:1-14 is to "grow-up" in their faith, to press on to maturity, to press on in their Christian walk.

-They should not be deterred by obstacles vv. 1-9

-Lack of joy

-Legalists

-The past

-They should pursue maturity vv. 10-14

-Their goal should be to know Jesus more intimately and to become increasingly like Him.

-It should be their consuming passion.

2. Rejoice is a key word in the Epistle to the Philippians. It was apparently something they found lacking or difficult.

-“Most of God's people need this challenge often. It is easy for believers to let circumstances discourage them. The cure for discouragement is to rivet one's attention on the Lord and rejoice in Him” (Robert Lightner).

-A joyless Christian is a contradiction in terms

--We are robbed of joy because of circumstances, because we condemn ourselves, because others condemn us (judge us by a standard they don't and can't keep, and because of failure in the past.

3. Paul was a man of one passion, one purpose, one ambition to be like Christ, Philippians 3:12-16.

4. Paul had a singleness of purpose (“one thing I do”). It didn't mean that he didn't have other interests or responsibilities in life, but rather that it put all other interests in perspective.

5. He faced obstacles to fulfilling that ambition

-the past; past successes & achievements, past hurts, past failures, past sins.

-taking his eye off the goal; instead he kept his attention on what was before him, like a runner keeps their eye on the finish line.

6. -“... , forgetting those things which are behind’ does not suggest an impossible feat of mental and psychological gymnastics by which we try to erase the sins and mistakes of the past. It simply means that we break the power of the past by living for the future. Too many Christians are shackled by regrets of the past. They are trying to run the race by looking backward! No wonder they stumble and fall...” (Warren Wiersbe)