

Life in Color #8

Joy in a Heavenly Citizenship

Word

Scripture Reference

Philippians 3:12-4:1

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever participated in a race or any sort of competition? What makes these competitions exciting? Discuss the reason(s) why competitors keep going even when it seems like there is no chance for them to win.
2. Read Philippians 3:12-4:1. Knowing Christ is a life-long pursuit. Paul is a spiritual giant because he remained focused on his goal to know Christ (v. 12-14). As a Christian, what are you doing to level up and continue to grow in your spiritual life and avoid having a relationship plateau with Jesus Christ? Discuss with the group about the things that could or are hindering you from growing spiritually, resulting in you being an ineffective Christian.
3. As a spiritual father Paul encouraged the Philippian Christians by saying that together they can strive to live up to what they have already attained (v. 15-16). Do you have a spiritual cheerleader who inspires you in your walk with God? After spending most of your time during the week with non-Christians, how does being with fellow believers in worship or small groups motivate you to know Christ better? In what ways can you encourage those in your circle of influence such as your loved ones, friends and co-workers to grow together with you in their faith?
4. As in any other race, the pursuit of knowing Christ is peppered with distractions that hinder spiritual growth (v. 17-19). For some, these distractions occur when physical desires become much more important than spiritual maturity. As a Christian you are called to self-sacrifice and discipline. What personal comfort or pleasure do you need to forgo in order to be on the right track with God on the race to spiritual maturity?
5. Another distraction to the pursuit of knowing Christ is when people

glory in their shame—when you take pride on something you should be ashamed of. Give examples of shameful things that people brag about. How would this attitude of pride distract you from leveling up in your spiritual growth?

6. The third common distraction Christians face on the road to spiritual growth is when we set our minds on earthly things instead of heaven. What are some things in your life you tend to focus on too much that may or have already become idols that prevent you from growing spiritually? How would awareness of these weaknesses help in your pursuit of knowing Christ?
7. The Philippians in Paul's time were Roman citizens, but because of Christ's death and their faith in Him as their Savior, they have more importantly become citizens of heaven. If you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you also have been granted citizenship in heaven. Are you proud of this fact? How do you show that you value your heavenly citizenship? Share and discuss with the group about the things you look forward to when you get to heaven.
8. Paul encourages believers to stand firm in the Lord (4:1). Standing firm in your faith means resisting distractions or negative influences and focusing instead on knowing Christ, looking forward to your heavenly citizenship and the joy that comes with it. Based on your present situation, how can you persevere and stay true to the Lord?

Walk

As you ponder about your citizenship in heaven, how can you renew your commitment to press on toward the goal of becoming more like Christ?

Worship & Prayer

Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony

Pray for...

- GCCP worshipers to live as faithful citizens of Heaven on earth.
- Blessings for the upcoming DVBS and Youth Camp.
- Finalization of rehabilitation projects.
- Healing and provision for Corazon Yap, Francisco So, FW, Segundo Ɔ,
- Pedro Ɔ.
- JL's safe pregnancy and peace of mind.
- Full recovery of SC; DMC's jaundice.
- RR's daughter: studies and spiritual life
- Wisdom and strength for all the students.