



Reference: *Philippians 3:1-16*

Feb. 29- March 5

INTRODUCTION

This week we will be talking about the importance knowing others and being known as it relates to our moving beyond happy to experience joy. We will find three challenges that are vital to knowing and being known.

ICE BREAKER

If you could get coffee with anyone throughout history for two hours, who would it be and why?

QUESTIONS

- 1) Before we begin our discussion, most agree that one of the foundational desires for all humans is to be known. Unfortunately though, our generation is one of the loneliest of all time. Why do you think that is?
- 2.) Read Philippians 3:1-3, Pastor John stated that a challenge vital to our experiencing joy through knowing and being known is that we have to be careful with the company we keep. Who was Paul warning the Philippian church to stay away from? Given the words he uses to describe them, what messages do you believe they were preaching?
- 3.) "There is nothing I could do to make God love me more; nothing I have done that makes God love me less." J.D. Greear; why is this truth so hard for us to believe at times? What are ways that you try to earn God's love at times or try to make up for a mistake to earn back His favor? What is the only thing that earns you the love, acceptance and approval of God?
- 4.) Pastor John also stated that we must be confident in the Christ we trust. Read Philippians 3:4-6; what are some of the things that Paul states about his own religious resume? What might some of these look like in modern day Christianity? In vv.7-10 though what does Paul teach us about the value of such a resume when it comes to knowing Christ?
- 5.) Paul completely surrendered his whole life because he had found that it was all rubbish in comparison to the richness of Christ. What are some areas of your life that you are tempted to try to control or hold onto yourself rather than surrender to Christ?
- 6.) Pastor lastly stated that we must be committed to the goal of eternal reward. Read vv.12-16, What does Paul state that he is pursuing or pressing on towards? Do you find it difficult to do the same in your life, why?
- 7.) Pastor stated the key to commitment towards an eternal reward is to yield as Paul yielded. In the same way that a glove yields to the hand, how can you yield to God working through you in your life?
- 8.) Ultimately though we can't find true joy until we know Jesus intimately and open up our hearts to Him? Have you been prioritizing spending time with Him? If not what are some ways you can do that, and who can help hold you accountable to it?