

Discussion Guide

Philippians 3:12-21 | The Christian's Aim

1. Read verses 12-14. Paul says he hasn't "arrived" but he presses on toward what Christ took hold of him **for**. We easier think of what we are saved **from**, but what is it we are saved **for**? What is it that Christ took hold of you for?
2. Havel said the real question isn't what we're responsible for, but who we're responsible to. How does that insight nuance the discussion of what we are saved **for**? Where in your life right now are you looking inward ("who do I want to be") or outward to the people around you ("what does my family or group expect") to answer that question, rather than upward to God's call?
3. What sort of things would change in your if you fully believed there's a caller, someone outside yourself, summoning you into something bigger than your own preferences or your community's expectations?
4. The word Paul uses in verse 12 (often translated "perfect" or "mature") means whole, complete, integrated, not sinless. Where do you notice the gap of this in the world, the disintegration? Where do you notice it in yourself? Perhaps between what you say you believe and how you actually live? What types of wholeness or integration do we most need?
5. Bobby described this wholeness as being made for "the music of the spheres," each part of your life and each person around you coming together into one thing rather than playing solo. What's one area of your life right now that feels like a solo performance instead of being integrated into something bigger?
6. Read verse 17 again. "Join together in following my example... keep your eyes on those who live as we do." This is the same word Paul uses elsewhere for keeping your eyes on Christ. Why do you think imitating faithful people is part of how God grows us, rather than just imitating Christ directly?
7. Who are you currently imitating, whether you've named it or not? What do you find yourself wanting because they want it, doing because they do it, or valuing because they value it?
8. Who is someone in your life, or in this church, whose footsteps you could deliberately walk in this season? What would it look like to actually ask them if you could?
9. Verses 18-19 describe those whose "God is their stomach" and whose "mind is set on earthly things." Where might your own life be flourishing by earthly metrics while quietly drifting from what you're actually called to?

10. Verse 20 says our citizenship is in heaven. What does that mean for us? If you took that seriously this week, what's one decision, relationship, or habit it would reshape?