

“Are You Focused on Heaven?” (Php. 3:12-21)

Series: “Joy Ride: Are You Having a Fun Trip?” (Philippians)

Rusty Russell

New Day Christian Church, Port Charlotte, FL

May 13, 2018 (Mother’s Day)

INTRODUCTION:

The theme of the book of Philippians is _____.

The sixth ingredient for a joy-filled life = A focus on our destination.

Sometimes the road gets tough, and finding joy isn’t easy. (That’s especially true for moms who have a tough job!)

In today’s passage, Paul makes one overriding point: When life gets tough, keep your eyes on the goal. Our goal is not success or ease in life. Our goal is heaven. Paul uses three illustrations to remind us to focus on the prize of heaven.

I. AN ATHLETE STRAINING TOWARD THE FINISH LINE

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

15 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

II. A SOLDIER MARCHING IN FORMATION

17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

18 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

III. A FOREIGNER LIVING IN A STRANGE LAND

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

[Rev 21:1-7 NIV] 1 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Can you picture that day? Can you visualize the victory?

- Who will greet you?

- What will the new heaven and the new earth be like?
- What will you do when you see our Lord face-to-face?

“The Characteristics of Great Preaching” (1 Cor 1:17-31)

Atlanta Preachers’ Mtg

Rusty Russell, Lead Pastor, New Day CC, Port Charlotte, FL

May 15, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

We have been called to preach the Gospel. Is there a higher calling?

[1Co 1:17-31 NIV] 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel--not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." 20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. 26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

I. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT PREACHING

A. Great preaching is Word-driven not entertainment driven.

[1Co 1:17 NIV] 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel--not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

APPLYING THIS TRUTH:

1) I'll care more about _____ than _____.

2) I'll not neglect the weekly _____ of the study of God's Word.

3) I'll seek to be known as a _____ of the _____.

B. Great preaching is redemptive not moralistic.

[1Co 1:18, 21 NIV] 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ... 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

APPLYING THIS TRUTH:

1) I will ask myself every week "How does this text point to _____?" and resist the temptation to write a moralistic sermon.

2) I will offer an _____ to surrender to _____ every week.

C. Great preaching is countercultural not “relevant.”

19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." 20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

APPLYING THIS TRUTH:

1) I won't hesitate to speak _____ about difficult or controversial cultural issues.

Reflections on Bob Russell's perspective: Speaking the truth in love...

- a) Energized the majority of the members.
- b) Created respect among non-believers and seekers.

2) I will “preach the whole _____ of God.” (Acts 20:27)

II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GREAT PREACHER

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

A. Aren't concerned with being _____.

"God chose the lowly things..."

B. Are concerned with being _____.

"Christ is our righteousness, holiness and redemption."

C. _____ the glory of God.

"Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

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The Birds and the Bees: Back to Basics (2016)

Series on 1 Cor 6-7. God’s basics on “sex and marriage.” Our culture is so messed up in this area! We need a revolution. The only way that will happen is if Christians start teaching their kids differently so that the next generation does things the right way. Let’s focus this series on training parents and grandparents how to teach kids in a Christian home about the Birds and the Bees. (And of course how to model godly behavior.)

Oct 2: “Why are Boys and Girls Different?": Mystery and beauty of your sexuality; keeping self pure for glory of God. (1 Cor 6:12-20)

Oct 9: “Why Can’t I Have a Boyfriend?": Preparing for marriage: when and whom; and singleness is ok. No “right” to have sex. (various scriptures from 1 Cor 7)

Oct 16: “Why are Mommy and Daddy Always Smooching?": The importance of a “Marriage-centered home.” (various from 1 Cor 7)

Oct 23: “Why are Mommy and Daddy Always Smooching?” Part 2

Oct 30: “How Can I Find Mr. / Mrs. Right?": Choosing a Mate (various from 1 Cor 7)

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**CHASING AFTER...
(ECCLESIASTES SERIES 2017)**

Solomon said...

One greater than Solomon said...

Life: has no meaning

Heaven awaits (In my Father's house... Jn 14)

Pleasure: Eat drink be merry
(fill up your bucket best you can)

Blessed are the poor in spirit
(empty your bucket to be filled)
Come to me all who are weary...

Success: This world is...

- Cruel: protect yourself
- Competitive: be content w/ less
- Lonely: 2 are better than 1

In this world you will have trouble
but take heart, I have overcome!

Store up treasures in heaven!

Have you not heard? God made
them male and female...

Money: Enjoyment and wise
use of money distracts you from
a meaningless life

Wise use of money gains friends
and has eternal significance
(Lk 16:9)

Youthfulness: Enjoy life while
you're young, but be careful not
to ruin your future, because
old age comes quickly & you'll
reap what you sow then die.

Seek first His kingdom and His
righteousness and all these things
will be added to you as well.

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MASTER PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR NEXT 20 YEARS
RUSTY RUSSELL 3/27/15

A. JANUARY – EASTER = LIFE OF CHRIST (12-16 WEEKS)

(Note: See “harmony” in Thompson Chain Bible)

2016: Snapshots in Life of Christ

- teenage Jesus through Jesus and Nicodemus

2017: Snapshots in the Life of Christ

- woman at well through party at Matthew’s house

When “Harmony” is finished, consider series on:

1. Beatitudes
2. Final Week
3. Crucifixion – **done 2018**
4. Sermon on the Mount
5. Resurrection
6. Parables of Christ
7. Miracles of Christ
8. Interactions (Kyle’s “beautiful collisions”)
9. Things in Matt. not yet covered
10. Things in Mark not yet covered
11. Things in Luke not yet covered
12. Things in John not yet covered

B. EASTER TO SUMMER (8-12 WEEKS)

1. James – **DONE - 2016**
2. Ecclesiastes – **DONE – 2017**
3. Romans 1-7
4. Romans 8
5. Romans 9-16

6. Galatians
7. Ephesians 1-3
8. Ephesians 4-6
- 9. Philippians – DONE - 2018**
10. Colossians (completed 2011?)
- 11.1 Thessalonians
- 12.2 Thessalonians
- 13.1 Timothy
- 14.2 Timothy
15. Titus
16. Philemon
17. Hebrews

C. SUMMER (8-12 WEEKS)

- 1. Life of Samuel (July 2015)**
2. Youth of David (**2017**)
3. David in flight (**scheduled - 2018**)
4. Kingship of David
5. Solomon
6. Divided Kingdom
7. Daniel
8. Ezra & Nehemiah
- 9. Acts – 1st half (completed 2014)**
- 10. Acts – life of Paul (completed 2015)**
11. Genesis 1-11
12. Life of Abraham
13. Life of Isaac
14. Life of Jacob
- 15. Life of Joseph (completed 2015)**
16. Exodus 1-15
17. Wilderness
18. Ten Commandments
19. "Law" (Lev-Deut)

20. "Tabernacle" (last part of Exodus)

C. FALL (12 WEEKS)

1. **1 Cor. 1-10 (fall 2016)**
2. **1 Cor 11-16 (fall 2017)**
3. 2 Cor 1-6
4. 2 Cor 7-13
5. Song of Solomon
6. Job
7. **1 Pet (completed 2013?)**
8. 2 Pet
9. **1 John (completed fall 2015)**
10. II John, III John, Jude
11. Revelation
12. Joshua
13. Judges
14. Ruth & Esther
15. Psalms
16. Proverbs
17. Isaiah (possibly go through December?)
18. Jeremiah
19. Ezekiel and Minor prophets

D. DECEMBER (3-4 WEEKS): "Birth of Christ"

1. **Luke 1-2 (Dec 2015)**
2. **Matthew 1-2 (Dec 2014)**
3. **John 1 (Dec 2016)**
4. Intertestamental period?
5. Note: at one time I thought I might do "prophets cry out", cover prophets here...?

ANSWERS:

- Content / delivery
- Study
- Preacher / Word
- Jesus
- Invitation / Jesus
- Biblically
- Counsel
- Cool
- Holy
- Celebrate