

We Are Glad *You* Are Here

Sunday, September 14, 2025



sermon: "Living Between Two Worlds" - Philippians 3:12-21

Big Idea: Knowing that heaven is our true home fills us with great joy and with a sense of purpose and hope in the here and now.

I. The Pursuit of Christ (vv. 12-19)

A. Paul is single-minded in his pursuit of Jesus and all He has for him (vv. 12-14). Paul knows that he is made righteous in God's eyes by faith in Christ, not works (v. 9). But this does not keep Paul from pursuing a deeper knowledge of Christ and becoming more like Him in every aspect of his life (cf. Rom. 8:28-29).

B. In Paul's pursuit of Christ, we see:

1. The importance of focus (vv. 12-14; cf. Heb. 12:1-3).
2. The importance of example (vv. 16-17).
3. The importance of a heavenly vision (vv. 17-19; cf. Jn. 14:1-3).

C. In Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis writes, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." Paul's pursuit of Jesus is driven by the fact that what lies before us is much bigger, and better, than what lies behind us. So, he presses forward, running toward his true home.

II. The Pursuit of our True Home (vv. 18-21)

A. Paul was anguished over the Judaizers and false teachers that had infiltrated the Church (vv. 2, 18). These imposters taught a form of religion that led others away from Jesus. To counter this, Paul emphasizes the priority of solely pursuing Jesus and setting our minds on heavenly things (cf. Col. 3:1-4).

B. We pursue our true home when:

1. We know our salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus, not by works or religious ceremony (vv. 18-19; cf. Eph. 2:8-10).
2. We live as citizens of heaven (v. 20).
3. We stand on the resurrection (v. 21; cf. 1 Jn. 3:1-2).

C. Anyone who is in Christ has experienced the tension of living between two worlds. It is indeed a challenge, but, the more we long for heaven, the greater impact we can have for Messiah Jesus in this world here and now.

COME AS YOU ARE, BECOME WHO GOD HAS MEANT YOU TO BE.

We Are Glad *You* Are Here

Sunday, September 14, 2025



sermon: "Pressing On in Christ" - Philippians 3:12-16

Big Idea: Knowing that heaven is our true home fills us with great joy and with a sense of purpose and hope in the here and now.

I. The Pursuit of Christ (vv. 12-19)

A. Paul is single-minded in his pursuit of Jesus and all He has for him (vv. 12-14). Paul knows that he is made righteous in God's eyes by faith in Christ, not works (v. 9). But this does not keep Paul from pursuing a deeper knowledge of Christ and becoming more like Him in every aspect of his life (cf. Rom. 8:28-29).

B. In Paul's pursuit of Christ, we see:

1. The importance of focus (vv. 12-14; cf. Heb. 12:1-3).
2. The importance of example (vv. 16-17).
3. The importance of a heavenly vision (vv. 17-19; cf. Jn. 14:1-3).

C. In Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis writes, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." Paul's pursuit of Jesus is driven by the fact that what lies before us is much bigger, and better, than what lies behind us. So, he presses forward, running toward his true home.

II. The Pursuit of our True Home (vv. 18-21)

A. Paul was anguished over the Judaizers and false teachers that had infiltrated the Church (vv. 2, 18). These imposters taught a form of religion that led others away from Jesus. To counter this, Paul emphasizes the priority of solely pursuing Jesus and setting our minds on heavenly things (cf. Col. 3:1-4).

B. We pursue our true home when:

1. We know our salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus, not by works or religious ceremony (vv. 18-19; cf. Eph. 2:8-10).
2. We live as citizens of heaven (v. 20).
3. We stand on the resurrection (v. 21; cf. 1 Jn. 3:1-2).

C. Anyone who is in Christ has experienced the tension of living between two worlds. It is indeed a challenge, but, the more we long for heaven, the greater impact we can have for Messiah Jesus in this world here and now.

COME AS YOU ARE, BECOME WHO GOD HAS MEANT YOU TO BE.