

Grow and Discern Resource Sheet

Series: *Formed for the Future, Faithful for Now*

Date: 8/31/25 **Title:** Ultimate Life or Ultimate Purpose

Text: Philippians 3:7-16

In our passage, the Apostle Paul lays out for us what are the ultimate core values and vital behaviors of Christian discipleship, specifically that our highest aim is to exchange our lives and its benefits & values for the promise of Christ's kingdom and its benefits & values. The Christian life is about living out the "great exchange," and all disciples of Christ are exhorted to think this way.

Key Sermon Points

1. Value: Fully Knowing Christ, 3:7-11

The "great exchange" happens when a follower of Christ surrenders anything that might compete with His Lordship. In Philippians 3, Paul explains that this exchange means giving up self-interest and personal advantage in order to gain the surpassing value of knowing Christ. He uses strong language, calling everything else "garbage" compared to knowing Christ.

This exchange often involves suffering, which teaches us that nothing in this world can truly satisfy. Paul even describes it as sharing in Christ's own sufferings, joining our lives with His.

2. Vision: Pursuing the Endgame, 3:12-14

There are three key elements to what Paul is calling us to here:

- a) **Effort:** pressing on, straining toward this goal
- b) **Forgetting:** Not being stuck in past successes or failures
- c) **Heavenward:** the goal we are exhorted to is the promise of eternal glory

Everything we do should be connected to that ultimate purpose.

3. Virtue: Walking in Mature Faith, 3:15-16

God's vision for His people is meant to be a conviction shared by every believer. It's not simply the "best" or "advanced" way to think, but the right and proper way to understand our life of discipleship, i.e., living with God's kingdom in view.

When we lose sight of this, or fail to see why it matters, God graciously shapes our lives through experience to remind us that the Christian life is anchored in future hope. He shows us that this world cannot give the lasting grace and peace we long for, so that our hearts are re-centered on Christ and His coming kingdom.

Grow and Discern Resource Sheet

Series: *Formed for the Future, Faithful for Now*

Date: 8/31/25 Title: Ultimate Life or Ultimate Purpose

Text: Philippians 3:7-16

Discussion Questions

1. Paul says he counts everything as loss compared to knowing Christ (vv.7–8). What are some “gains” in our own lives that we may struggle to count as loss for His sake?
2. How does Paul’s desire “to know Christ and the power of His resurrection” (v.10) reshape how we view both suffering and success?
3. In verses 12–14, Paul admits he hasn’t “arrived,” but he presses on. What does this teach us about pursuing spiritual maturity and avoiding complacency?
4. Verse 16 calls us to “live up to what we have already attained.” What does that look like in practical daily discipleship, especially when growth feels slow?

Meditating on Formation

Reflect: What is one area of your life you sense God is inviting you to release so that you might know Christ more deeply?

Pray: Ask the Lord to give you Paul’s mindset of pressing forward with perseverance, even when faith feels costly.

Dwell: Sit with the phrase “the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord” (v.8). Let it reorder your loves and priorities.

Challenge This Week

- ❖ What tangible sacrifices can you make to center Christ more in your life?
- ❖ Assess how you are practically valuing eternity in your ambitious pursuits? Share this with someone else for their feedback.
- ❖ Do *lectio divina* this week on The Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12, note how Christ points us toward the kingdom in the midst of difficulty or hardship listed. Note the ways this connects with your life currently.