



Title: FOCUS ON THE PRIZE OF HEAVEN

Main Scripture: Philippians 3:12-21

Four practices can help you focus on heaven here now:

STRIVE (vv 12-14)

ELIMINATE (vv 15-16)

QUESTION (vv 17-19)

INVITE (vv 20-21)

PRAYER & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Lord Jesus, which of these four practices do I need the most help with today?

When do you get most earthly minded?

Lord Jesus, we invite You to show us when we are most earthly minded ...

Lord Jesus, we offer this to You now and ask that You would bring Your power to enable us to be more focused on heaven, especially when we are most tempted to be focused on earthly things.

How are you trying to respond in your own earthly way?
Overwhelm, escapism, anger, anxiety?

Lord Jesus, please show us how we respond in an earthly way ...

Lord Jesus, we give You our earthly responses and ask that You would meet us there and help us to experience heaven in those moments, transforming us according to Your love and power.

Focus on the Prize of Heaven | April 13-14, 2024

Small Group Sermon Study

Prayer: Father, in Jesus' name, through Your Holy Spirit, we invite You to come now. Speak to us, teach us, and transform us. We ask You to work in us as we read, discuss, and reflect on Your Word.

Icebreaker: What are some things that you can look forward to over the next few months?

Read Philippians 3:12-21 together. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your thoughts, and then take a moment of silence to listen to anything He may desire to bring to mind. From this Scripture passage and notes and listening to the sermon, discuss the following:

- Share any thoughts or questions that came to mind as you were silent.
- Paul states that, "our citizenship is in heaven". Pastor Craig says that the idea of citizenship relates to our conduct and pride in this place to which we belong to the Kingdom of God. How does the reality of our heavenly citizenship affect how we respond to what is going on around us? Specifically, how does it impact our focus and what we strive towards?
- Consider the image of an athlete straining forward to cross the finish line. Paul says that, as followers of Jesus, like an athlete, we must strive towards the prize and eliminate distraction. What are some examples of how to do this in our day-to-day lives?

Personal Reflection:

- When you consider the idea of "purpose," what comes to mind for you personally? Is it perfecting a hobby, traveling, retirement, healing, family, etc.? *"If there is one thing I do ..."*
- Who or what influences your ideas and lifestyle? Is it personal comfort, happiness, satisfaction? Is it the comfort, happiness, or satisfaction of your family?
- How will you invite God to shape your idea of what is worthwhile to "strive for" this week?
- As citizens of a "kingdom" (example: Canada), our participation in that "kingdom" gives us certain benefits. What benefits have you experienced as a citizen of the Kingdom of God?
- How does your personal experience of the Kingdom of God impact (or not) how you invite others to put their trust in Jesus?

Prayer: Take some time to prayer for one another and then pray the following together: Jesus, thank You that You have established the path that You want us to follow. Holy Spirit, we ask You to reveal and remove what distracts, and to empower us to press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call, which is to be present with Jesus in His Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.