

Life Group Homework

God's Calm

Fall 2021 | Week 2

Sermon Date 10/10/2021

MY STORY

- 1) What is one thing on your bucket list?
- 2) What would be your dream vacation?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

This week Pastor Craig taught about Jabez. We learned that Jabez means *pain and distress*. During this time period, a person's name was considered a reflection of their character and part of their identity. Jabez's mother labeled him as a pain and distress to her. This was his starting place in life. But he didn't let this label stop him from seeking greater influence and being useful in God's hands. We will be unpacking the idea of aspiration.

Philippians 3:10-21 (NLT)

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! ¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

¹⁵ Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. ¹⁶ But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

¹⁷ Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. ¹⁸ For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. ²⁰ But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. ²¹ He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

- 4) What does Paul long for?
- 5) Why would that be an aspiration for Paul?
- 6) What does that aspiration look like in your life?
- 7) In verses 12-14 Paul tells us that he forgets what is behind and presses on towards the goal. What are some of the things that hold us back from pressing forward?
- 8) What's the goal, and what would your life look like if you pressed daily towards it?
- 9) According to this passage, how does Paul feel about people who are what he calls "enemies of the cross?"
- 10) How do "enemies of the cross" act, and how should we view and treat them?
- 11) Who are we, and what does it mean to eagerly wait for His return?
- 12) What will happen to us when he comes?
- 13) How does that truth make you feel, and how does it impact your hope?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

This week reread Philippians 3:10-21 and pray about the following questions:

- 1) Is my hope firmly planted in the same place as Paul's?
- 2) Lord, are my aspirations in the wrong place?
- 3) Is there an aspiration that God wants to break free that is currently unresolved?

