

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Title: The Habit of Focus

Text: Proverbs 4:20 – 27; Philippians 3:1 - 21

Introduction:

Review of the last Sunday's devotional:

- The Habit of Meditation
1. Why Meditate on Scripture
 2. How to Meditate on Scripture

Begin by simply reading the Scripture; Add the Discipline of Journaling; Memorize verses that speak to you; Ask yourself questions about the Bible portion.

Read: Proverbs 4:20 – 27; Philippians 3:1 - 21

1. Godly Focus Develops from Being Scripturally Minded:

Proverbs 4:20 - 27

- 1.1) Godly Focus is Fine Tuned by Meditation:
Psalm 1:1 – 3

Illustration of binocular adjustments:

- ~ center focus control (8 X 21)
- ~ diopter adjustment (adjusts for the difference between the eyes)

- 1.2) Godly Focus is Determined by Our Willful Obedience to God's Word:

~ Proverbs 4:20 – 21

- 1.3) Godly Focus Requires that I be Selective:

~ Proverbs 4:25 – 27

~ Psalm 101:3, "I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me."

~ 1 John 2:16, "For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world."

~ Matthew 18:9, "And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter live with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire."

2. Godly Focus is a Heart Issue:

- 2.1) Guard your Heart:

~ Proverbs 4:23, "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it are the springs of life."

- 2.2) The Example of the Apostle Paul:

~ Do not trust everything you hear:

Philippians 3:2; Galatians 1:6 – 9, 3:1 – 6;
2 Timothy 4:3 – 4; 1 John 4:1 - 6

~ Do not Focus on your Pedigree (good or wanting):

Philippians 3:4 – 5a

~ Do not Focus on your Credentials (good or wanting):

Philippians 3:5b - 7

~ Paul's willingness to FOLLOW:

Philippians 3:8 – 11

~ Paul's FOCUS:

Philippians 3:12 – 16

~ Paul's Counsel:

Philippians 3:17 - 21

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Conclusion:

~ Moses had a prayer requesting Divine Focus:

Exodus 33:18, "Moses said, "Please show me your glory."