

“The One Thing that Matters”

Philippians 3:12–21

1 May 2022

INVITATION

1. Have you ever felt the overwhelming desire to depart from this life to be with the Lord? What were the circumstances that led to this feeling? Is it wrong for a Christian to feel that way?

RECOLLECTION

2. What stood out to you as you listened to the sermon preached Sunday morning? Was there anything said on which you require further clarity?

OBSERVATION

3. In vv. 15–16 Paul is quite hopeful about the congregation getting on the same page about the one thing that matters. How does Philippians 1:6 relate to this (see also Romans 8:28–30)? How should this perspective encourage us as we seek to help one another to grow in our knowledge of Jesus Christ?

APPLICATION

4. The Christian is called to “press on” towards Christlikeness. Often Christians lose their zeal to do so. What contributes to this kind of spiritual slothfulness?

How does the reality that “Christ Jesus has made [us] his own” (v. 12) help us in this pursuit?

5. Paul was neither self-satisfied with his growth in knowing the risen Christ nor paralysed by his past failures. What part do our failures play in our pursuing the one thing that matters? How can these paralyse our efforts? How do we overcome such paralysis?

6. What is the one thing that matters in this text? How and why is it so important? Consider Hebrews 12:14 as you think about this question.

7. “Only let us hold true to what we have attained” (v. 16). Does this mean that we may reach a point where we are content with how much we have grown and stop pursuing further growth?

8. Discuss why the Sunday evening prayer and worship service is so poorly attended. How does our passage encourage us to revive our faithfulness to this gathering?