

***Partners in Christ***  
**Philippians study guide #8**  
**Philippians 3:12-4:1 – lead up to May 6<sup>th</sup>**

1. Read the passage aloud as a group in a few different translations – with an ear to the heart of what Paul is saying in this passage.
  - What verses, words or ideas most grab your attention and why?
  - What in this passage is an encouragement or challenge to you and why?

[This passage is rooted in what Paul has previously written. We hear this in the opening line when he refers to “*obtaining all this*” (NIV) – which assumes that we know what “*all this*” is. Take a moment to recall together what Paul is talking about...]

2. In vs.12-14, Paul talks about his pursuit of Christ (“*pressing on to take hold...*”) and Christ’s pursuit of him (“*Christ Jesus took hold of me*”).
  - Which pursuit most dominates **your** relationship with God? Which most dominates your thoughts, prayers and imagination?
  - And what difference does this make? (note: they both matter)
3. In v.18, Paul refers to those who “*live/walk as enemies of the cross of Christ*”.
  - What did Paul mean by this? What did this look like in his day, and what does it look like today?
  - What are the ways we are tempted to “*live/walk as enemies of the cross of Christ*”? To deny the call to follow the Crucified One?
4. In vs.19-21, Paul talks about the end or destiny of those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and of those whose hope is in the Crucified One.
  - Unpack the particulars of what Paul says about each.
  - What in this do you need to hear and why? What do you need to fix your mind on?

**PRAY:** Take the rest of the time to pray together for one another and for our church in the light of all that has been shared.

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