

JOY IN THE JOURNEY

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD

“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you have tribulation, but take courage;
I have overcome the world.”

— John 16:33 —

LESSON SIX

THE TROUBLE WITH REMEMBERING

Finding Joy in Looking Forward

DISCUSSION QUESTION

“What is the biggest thing you are looking forward to in the future?”

INTRODUCTION

- Jeremiah 29:1-14
- Colossians 3:1-4
- Proverbs 23:17-18

LESSON

The Trouble with Remembering: Finding Joy in Looking Forward

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 3:14)

- 1. Press on.**
 - a. God is always moving us forward.
 - b. *Don't get caught up in the past.*
- 2. Lay hold.**
 - a. The prize God offers us can only be obtained ahead.
 - b. *Keep your eye on the goal.*
- 3. Follow Him.**
 - a. God sets our standard of living.
 - b. *Make sure your attitude matches His example.*
- 4. Watch out.**
 - a. Most people around us live for the material.
 - b. *Don't let others pull you down.*
- 5. Look up.**
 - a. We are now citizens of heaven.
 - b. *Defection back to earth is not an option for believers.*

So are you a spectator in the stands or are you running the race?

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Philippians 3:12-21

12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;

16 however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,

19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.