

study notes

1. Read *Philippians 3:1-11*. What does Paul tell the church to be aware of? How does this apply to us today, and why are we to be aware of it?

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2. According to Paul what is worth more than all he once had? Discuss what this means to us.

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3. Read *Philippians 3:12-16*. How do we move on after we've repented of our sins? How does Paul encourage us to do so?

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4. Read *Philippians 3:15-21*. What is the fate of those who live as enemies of Christ? What is our response as believers?

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sermon notes

NOVEMBER 7, 2010

SERMON SERIES: SQUIRRELS IN THE STEEPLE

TODAY'S SERMON: WHAT JESUS SAYS TO A BUSY CHURCH

SCRIPTURE: REVELATION 1:3, 2:1-7 (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

“The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it’s indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it’s indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it’s indifference.”

—*Elie Wiesel*

HOW TO KEEP FIRST THINGS FIRST

1 You must listen to Jesus.

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...He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands...

Revelation 2:1 (NKJV)

.....
Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

.....
Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe *it*, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you — ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’

Deuteronomy 6:3 (NKJV)

HOW TO DEVELOP AN EAR FOR JESUS:

- times of quiet solitude and reflection in prayer and God’s Word
- through wise counselors and friends
- through a message that you hear
- through obedience



2 Don’t hide behind a busy Christian life.

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 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.

Revelation 2:2-3 (NKJV)

THREE VERY GOOD COMMITMENTS WE SHOULD HAVE:

1. a commitment to serving Christ
2. a commitment to the retraction of evil
3. a commitment to Christ through evangelism



Question: Have you lost your focus? Has the good taken the place of the best?

3 Acknowledge that your first love is Jesus Christ.

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 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Revelation 2:4 (NKJV)

.....
 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Philippians 3:8 (NKJV)



Question: Are you creating time, places, and experiences with Jesus?

4 Take the necessary steps to return to your first love for Christ.

.....
 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp-stand from its place—unless you repent.

Revelation 2:5 (NKJV)

WHAT ARE THOSE STEPS?

1. Remember how you have fallen and what caused you to fall.
2. Repent from what caused you to fall.

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 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Acts 3:19 (NKJV)

.....
 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

James 4:7-10 (NKJV)

FOUR STEPS IN REPENTANCE

1. You must see your sin for what it is. (ref. Psalm 38:2)
2. You must feel the weight of sin in your life. (ref. Psalm 38:2)
3. You must confess your sin to Christ and others. (ref. 1 John 1:9)
4. You must abandon your sin.

You say *no* to sin by saying *yes* to God.

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 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”

Revelation 2:7 (NKJV)

Paradise is what awaits those who love Jesus.