

STUDY NOTES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Strategies that Lead to Victory” on 5/20/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 3:8-21

TO HAVE A PLAN, YOU NEED A GOAL

When someone starts a business, they have a business plan. When a coach prepares a team, they have a game plan. The same can be said about believers. If you are a believer, then you can have a strategic plan as well. In 1 Corinthians, Paul says that he does not run this life “aimlessly”. For Paul, the goal that he planned around was this: he wanted to know Christ and the power of his resurrection.

Experiencing resurrection power sounds like a big deal—and it is—but it is also practical for every area of life.

- *What has been your experience working in an environment with no goals? Why are goals important?*

THE STRATEGY ACHIEVING THE GOAL

Paul’s strategy is to forget what is behind and to strain toward what is ahead. Paul’s strategy was to look at his past, and see how Jesus defines him in spite of his past. In the previous verses, Paul spent time talking about his past, so when he says to forget the past, he clearly doesn’t mean not remembering it.

In the Christian life, your past doesn’t have to define you. The one who saved you defines you in spite of your past.

- *Why is it such good news to you that your past doesn’t define you? How does Jesus define you?*

Paul uses language like “straining” and “pressing on”. Following Jesus will be a battle because there are forces that don’t want you to experience the power of the resurrection. The enemy doesn’t want us to press into that power because the enemy want us to live a life defined by our past.

- *How has it been hard for you to stay away from how you used to be defined?*

OUTCOME OF EXPERIENCING THE GOAL

Through resurrection power we can feel the love of Jesus take a hold of us. Sometimes we cry and groan in his presence, but that’s when we feel the embrace Jesus. When we see Jesus’s power in our lives, then we realize that everyone has something to offer.

Experiencing his love should motivate us to imitate the love of Jesus with others.

- *If you don’t find the value in others, how do you start to treat them intentionally or unintentionally?*
- *What does the love of Jesus tell us about the value of every human being?*
- *How can you see difficult people with the value that Jesus gives them?*
- *Pray with each other that you’d experience the power of Jesus’s resurrection in fresh ways this week.*