



Thinking Right-Side Up In an *upside-down* World

...about What's Worth Pursuing

(Philippians 3:12-4:1)

Introduction: We all know life should be ABOUT something. But WHAT?

Pursuit #1: Immediate Satisfaction of our Desires

*That looks like...

*Any problems with this pursuit?

Pursuit #2: Our Ultimate Transformation

*Paul wants to be "Paul 2.0" in God's eternal kingdom!

*What mindsets did Paul embrace along the way?

- "I know that I'm not there yet!" (3:12-13)

- "I'm not getting stuck in the past!" (3:13)

- "I'm going to grow all I can today!" (3:12-14)

- "I can't wait for Jesus to come back!" (3:20-21)

Conclusion: What have you chosen as your life's great pursuit?
Do you need to rethink it, follow a different role model?



Icebreakers:

1. What is a hobby/passion/activity/interest that you feel *driven* to do?
2. Who is a driven person that you respect in our culture? What are they driven by, do you think?

Sermon Summary: We are all pursuing *something*, either our immediate satisfaction or our ultimate transformation. Paul challenges us to make our life's pursuit to be "Me 2.0" in God's eternal kingdom. If we are going to do this, it will require us to think differently; we have to be humble, refuse to get stuck in the past, and push ourselves to grow today. Our great hope that sustains us is that Jesus will come back for us to finish the transformation that he has started.

Discussion Questions: (*Read Philippians 3:12-4:1 together.*)

1. Can you remember a time in your life when you had nothing you were chasing? How did that affect your emotions and thoughts?
2. Can you think of examples (real or fictional) of someone who spent their life chasing the wrong thing and only realized it at their end?

*** Pursuit #1: Immediate Satisfaction of our Desires**

3. How can you tell when your "belly" has become your god?
4. When is shame a good thing? When is shame a bad thing?
5. Can true believers live like this world is all there is? If so, how does that belief reveal itself in real-life choices?
6. Paul calls people who live this way "enemies of the Cross." Does that seem to be an overreaction? Explain your answer!

*** Pursuit #2: Our Ultimate Transformation**

7. What is the one element of your future transformation that you are the most excited to experience?
8. Is it discouraging to think that your desires won't be satisfied until eternity? Why or why not?
9. Why do we get our minds stuck in the past?
10. How do YOU battle complacency in your pursuit of transformation?

