**Philippians... Mark it up!**

**Growing Up (Phil. 3:1-16) February 21, 2021**

**Learn it, link it**

**The Goal: Knowing Christ.** (vv. 7-8)

**The Challenge:** There is always someone wanting to change your focus. (vv. 2-3)

**Growing up requires self-examination:**

Take it or leave it as you grow. (vv. 3-4)

**Leave it –** rules and rituals as a substitute for a living relationship (vv. 5-6)

**Leave it –** self-deception (self-righteousness, self-discipline) (vv. 7-9)

**Take it,** the path called Jesus. (vv. 9-11)

**Live it**

**The practice of Growing up in Jesus.** (vv. 12-14)

* As long as I am breathing, I am still in the process of growing.
* Following Jesus is not always an easy path
* The past failures / successes are for yesterday. They do not define my present relationship with Jesus or my future goals in Jesus.

**The best way to grow up in Jesus is one step at a time.**(vv. 15-16)

* Follow daily.
* Teachable spirit.
* Full of grace to myself and others.

**Life Group Study**

For week of February 21, 2021

*We invite you to use these notes to continue the conversation throughout the week. Whether online or in person, we need to connect together!
So take that Next Step and find yours today!* [*https://rlc.pub/groups*](https://rlc.pub/groups)

**Share your story**

What insight, question, or resolution did you discover from our time of worship together on Sunday?

Of all you have, what is most valuable to you? Why?

Who are some of the most valuable people to you? What makes them especially valuable?

**Connect to God’s story**

***If you haven’t yet, take a few minutes and read Paul’s letter to the Philippians and jot down anything that comes to mind as you read.***

**Read Philippians 3:1-16.**

What are some things that Paul writes here that jumps off the page? Do you think we value the same things the Lord does? Why?

Paul encourages his brothers and sisters in Philippi to rejoice in the Lord. How do you rejoice in the Lord? Do you let the joy of others be a source of encouragement in difficult times? Why or why not?

Paul lists several things that would give him reason to put his confidence in himself rather than Christ. What are some of the things this list includes? What would make your self-confidence list?

**Re-read Philippians 3:7-14.**

What does Paul say about his list and what is of infinite value? Is that of infinite value to you? Share...

*Life will have times of suffering and struggle but we don’t like to suffer.* What helps you when you don’t understand why something is happening to you or someone you love? Have your thoughts on this changed (matured) over the years? In what way?

Why is it important to trust the mighty resurrection power of God when considering suffering with Jesus?

*... I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

 *- Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)*

**Real Life Prayer for 2021**

We have been on a journey together in 2020. We have prayed for a deeper, intimate, personal, and dependent relationship with all of God— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

As we step into the new year let us build on all God has done, let us step boldly. Our word for Real Life church in 2021 is **impact**.

*Lord, have impact in my inner self.*

*Lord, have impact in my trust in you and obey your leading.*

*Lord, have impact in the words of life and hope you give me.*

*Lord, have impact in my family.*

*Lord, have impact in our community.*

*Amen.*

God has prepared us to be His light and life and to be an impact everywhere. Let the impact begin now!

Notes:

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