
[SERMON NOTES]

For the Long Haul (*Philippians 3:1-14*)

_____ of faith begins with personal _____.

The only credential to be right with Christ is _____ . (*Rom. 3:9-24*)

We persevere in the _____ not to achieve greater standing, but to receive greater _____ of Jesus. (*John 14:6*)

We _____ because _____ is our calling. (*Heb. 12:3*)

How Do We Persevere? *Prayer and Preparedness.*

Prayer = Praise. Repentance. Ask. Yield.

Preparedness = We get into the Word, so that the Word gets into us.

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

If you have ever worked on a house project then you know that it is easy to leave it 95% completed. We make the big push to get the project ALMOST finished but for whatever reason we don't get it 100% done. The caulking doesn't get completely done, the final touch up of paint doesn't get applied, the transition strip doesn't get put down, the final touches are left unfinished. We get the space functional, but not finished. This is the type of thing that can settle into our faith too. We sometimes have faith but lack the perseverance to live out our faith in the face of challenges.

Have you ever had a moment where you got so close to finishing something but yet so far away?

[DIGGING DEEPER]

In this weekend's message, Eric unpacked the idea of perseverance in our faith. We persevere in our faith not for a greater standing before God but rather a greater understanding of Jesus. This means that to know Jesus is the greater reward. *What comes to mind when you think about having a greater understanding of Jesus? What does it look like in your life?*

In Philippians 3, Paul leaves no room for boasting in our own accomplishments. If anyone had a right to boast in personal accomplishments it was Paul but he considers all of it a “loss” and “garbage” compared to knowing Christ. *So, what is the difference between boasting in ourselves versus boasting in Christ? How do we do that without sounding prideful?* **2 Corinthians 10:12-18**

When we study the life of Christ, we see Him persevering through great trials. So, to persevere in our faith is to be like Christ. *Read* the following two passages and write out observations of the similarities and differences in the perseverance of Jesus, despite what he was facing.

Matthew 4:1-11 & Matthew 26:36-45

What do you see as the differences between trials and temptations? **Read and use James 1:2-18** as a backdrop for understanding.

If we are honest, there are different things that we come up against that make us want to quit. We aren't sure if we can make it through it or not. What have those moments been for you? Take some time to list out various *trials* and *temptations* you have faced in your life

Trials

Temptations

As Eric said, it is through prayer and preparedness that we choose to persevere in our faith. *Do you find yourself needing to do either of those more often?* Make a plan below for the next week of when and what you will pray about, as well as when and what you will prepare your heart and mind with the Word of God.

Prayer:

Preparedness:

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (*1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

Psalms 34

Hebrews 12:1-3

Hebrews 10:19-39

Colossians 2:6-15