

LIFE LESSONS – Making It Live

David Welsh | “Carpe Diem: Seize the Day” | Philippians 3:4-14 | May 21.22

Progress

Can you share if there is something in your past that is keeping you from moving forward spiritually? Perhaps you keep remembering a huge mistake you made or a sin that keeps cropping up. The Apostle Paul had a lot in his past that might have kept him from moving forward. But he said, “But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind...” Does that mean we are to forget everything in our past? No, but dwelling on past mistakes ruins our chances for an effective ministry. Dwelling on past successes keeps us reliving the past. Read Isaiah 43:45. **Discuss** how we can claim God’s promise and move on.

Examine the Present

What is your purpose in life? Maybe it’s to be successful in your business or to be a good spouse and parent. Maybe it’s just to be a better person; to get rid of those things in our life that hinder us. It is not that these are not good goals but if you had to name your *primary* purpose in life, what would it be? **Discuss:** Everything in creation has a primary purpose – a reason for existing. Have you ever considered what your reason for existing might be? Consider this: For anyone to be successful and growing, we must fulfill that purpose. Discuss how God might reveal to you His primary purpose for your life.

Knowing Christ

What do you know about Christ that changes the way you live? Paul considered that and came to the conclusion that this was the purpose for his life. “All I want is to know Christ and the power of His rising from death. I want to share in Christ’s sufferings and become like Him in His death.” (Phil 3:10 – Everyday Bible) That is, or should be our primary purpose as Christians – to know Christ and to become like him. **Discuss:** If we are going to “seize the day”, how do we go about putting our faith in Jesus Christ and trust Him to be involved in our lives. That means to trust Him, not only with our lives but with all our possessions as well. Share how we begin to trust Christ enough to change the way we live, the way we serve, the way we give.

Celebrate

What are you anticipating in your spiritual life? Can you share if you anticipate doing something great for God? What do you imagine that might be? God wants to do something amazing through us. He expects us to walk through the doors of opportunity He opens. He wants us to be courageous. What are you looking forward to God doing in your life? Have you asked Him where He wants you to start? **Discuss:** We don’t suddenly become great. It is a day-by-day, step-by-step walk of obedience. It is a celebration of life – not just the present but also the future. Share where you think Christ is in your future.

Fear

Can you share what risk you are willing to take for Christ? It is difficult taking chances – stepping out in faith, isn’t it? We would much rather God just tell us what comes next or tell us exactly what we are supposed to do. But sometimes God wants us just to trust Him to do the next thing. As Pastor David said last week, “God says, ‘You just need to have the faith to obey, I’ll take care of the miracles.’” **Discuss:** Fear can paralyze us to the point where we do little or nothing for Christ or His church. We need to look ahead to what God can do through us. Read Joshua 3:5-17 and discuss their step of faith. Are you ready for God to do amazing things through you? How can we be ready to take that step of faith and let God take care of the miracles?

Written by Sandy Hooper