

LIFE LESSONS – Making It Live

David Welsh | “Community Under Construction” | Phil. 3:7-10 | August 27-28

“Be Like Christ”

What goal are you pursuing in your Christian walk? Is it to be the best person you can be? Is it to memorize Scripture? Or perhaps you have thought about going into full-time Christian ministry. But even before we can do any of these things what should our first priority be? Paul tells us in Philippians 3:7-8. He says that everything else in our lives is worthless compared to knowing Christ – becoming like Him. But is that easier said than done? Share how we can go about that. **Discuss** where we begin to know Christ? There is only one place – in His Word.

“Be Cleansed”

What types of things tend to draw you away from Christ? For most of us, it is not bad things, is it? Share some of the common day-to-day things that we feel must get done before the day is over. And before we know it we are immersed in the world and drawn away from Christ. **Discuss:** But we, the church, the Bride of Christ, are to be washed through the Word. When we read the Bible so that we may come to know Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed from the things of the world – wrong beliefs and attitudes. Why do you think it is that very few believers develop a habit of spending time in God’s Word each day? What do you think need to change in our lives so that we can spend time in God’s Word and begin to be cleansed?

“Prayer and Bible Study”

Do you not spend time in Bible Study because you either don’t understand Scripture or you don’t see how to apply it to your life? What do you think will change that? The main change is prayer. **Discuss** the following thoughts: Prayer and Scripture go hand in hand. Before you begin to read your Bible, ask God to speak to you and believe that He will. Be open to the possibility that God is really speaking to you through His Word. When you are moved by some passage of Scripture you may be prompted to take some action. If you ask, God will give you direction. Share how you sit down with your Bible and ask God to show you what He wants you to see. Share how we can effectively spend some time in His Word and in prayer and let God speak to us.

“Transformation”

Is your goal in reading Scripture to be able to check it off your list? “Well, I did my Bible reading today, I did what I’m supposed to do as a good Christian.” But what did you get from it? Did it change your life in any way? Did it cause you to consider a different way of thinking – a different lifestyle? Share your purpose in Bible reading. **Discuss:** Your goal in reading your Bible should be transformation. If you do not allow God’s Word to cleanse your mind of pride, to purge your judging spirit – if you do not allow the truth of Christ’s teaching to apply to your life – what have you accomplished. You will not be transformed and you will not be like Christ unless God’s Word penetrates your mind and changes your attitudes and behavior.

“Community”

What are you doing with what you are learning from God’s Word? Are you just soaking it in and giving nothing out? **Discuss:** We all need accountability and community. Your Bible Study should include other believers pursuing the same goal in life as you: to know and be like Christ. Transformation takes effort. It takes time and involvement. So how do you become involved with these like-minded Christians? Central Christian is offering a different opportunity to do just that. Why not consider leading a six-week small group study? This will give you a short-term opportunity to get involved and to share what you are learning. And who knows, you might even want to keep on going. Would you be willing to give it a try?

Written by Sandy Hooper