



18. Attitudes that Drive Growth

Philippians 3:12-16

- How do we grow? Ambition not enough. Right attitude needed.

1. Cultivate Godly Dissatisfaction

- *“Not that I have already attained all this, or ... been made perfect...”*
- Not dissatisfied with Christ, or grumbling at God, or with circumstances
- But not content with where he is at spiritually – wants to grow more
 - Is our satisfaction based on the here and now?
 - Are we satisfied with the half done work of redemption?
 - Are we satisfied with yesterday’s grace?
- There is no such thing as perfection – progress can always be made
- Self-examination is our weapon in cultivating a right dissatisfaction
- This is how mature Christians think – v15-16

2. Develop Focused Determination

a) Focus is necessary

- *“One thing I do, forgetting what is behind...”*
- Need to forget progress, our past, and concentrate on a looking forward
- Jesus takes hold for a purpose, that we may be like him and represent him
- Every day, interaction, reaction is an opportunity to grow in Christ-likeness or to live for Christ

b) Determination is necessary

- *“I press on... straining towards... I press on”*
- To know Christ, to be like him, to defeat our sins, to trust amidst suffering
- Not fanaticism, but godliness – Christ the least fanatical, but most godly
- What hinders determination?
 - Reliance on feelings
 - Reliance on past growth
 - Remembrance of past failures
- Need to *“forget what is behind”* and look to his power to go forward

3. Delight in your Security

- Not “Try harder”. Not trying to get approval. Trying because we have it.
- *“Christ Jesus took hold of me... God has called me heavenwards”*
- *Held and called* – Heaven is not in doubt, the prize is secure.
- Frees us to grow. Religion tends to hide sin, Christianity can face it because it is already forgiven
- If you’re not a Christian – you need to be taken hold of by Christ first.
- Run with determination and focus, not to win the prize, but because the prize is already yours, because of Jesus Christ.
- This delight frees us to grow, to fight sin, to be honest with ourselves



Sunday 29th November 09

n e w l i f e f e l l o w s h i p

S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Welcome

Welcome to our service this morning. There will be a simple lunch at the close of the service. Please feel free to stay and join us for a bite.

Notices

- | | | |
|----------|--|--------|
| Sun | Evening service at Day Centre
Jonny McCollum preaching on 1 Kings 17 | 8pm |
| Tues 1st | Romania Report - Sam Thompson
Faughan Church
If anyone wants a lift, speak to Mark | 7.30pm |
| Sun 6th | We will have the sacrament of a baptism at the close of the morning service | |

getting to know the WIDER CHURCH

Congregation: Ballyclabber
Location: Near Coleraine
Presbytery: Northern
Pastor: Warren Peel, married to Ruth with 4 daughters
Erin, Rebekah, Caitlin and Bethan.
Attendance: about 85



Prayer points:

- The church runs English classes for immigrants living in Coleraine. 12 currently attend. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them.
- 5 visitors came to a guest service last month, and 2 have been attending since. Pray that they will come to Christ and that more will come to our guest services.
- Give thanks for a growing spirit of prayer and pray that it will increase.
- Give thanks for the lessons learned at the congregational weekend a fortnight ago.

Sunday 6th - Phillipians 3:17-4:1

Opening Psalm: 107:19-24

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie
Oversight elders: William Lynch 048 7139 8002 Robert Tait 9101668 Colin Tait 9147352