

Starting Point: Part 4

Recreation: Romans 8:18-23, Revelation 21:1-5,

Philippians 3:20-21

2 common ways of approaching the future:

- 1.
- 2.

***Our challenge is to leverage our future position to be a relentlessly positive influence in our present.***

3 pictures or how we should think about the idea of restoration:

Romans 8:18-23: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Our Present suffering doesn't even compare with future glory.
2. Creation **hopefully** awaits new life.
3. Conflict gives way to integrity.

Revelation 21:1-5: \_\_\_\_\_

In true relationship with God and others **harmony** and **diversity** are celebrated (21:3-4, 22:2)

Philippians 3:20-21: \_\_\_\_\_

We are citizens called to colonize!

Application:

Live like nothing and no one is irredeemable.

*Life Group Questions*

***This week, before you go to your Life Group:***

Review Sunday's teaching and write down any questions that you have. Read Philippians 3:12-4:1 and become familiar with it.

***Life Group Discussion Questions:***

Read Philippians 3:12-4:1 together. What questions, comments or observations come to mind when you read this passage? Help one another answer those questions and discuss the things that seem most important in the passage.

In verses 12-15, what is it that Paul is trying to obtain? What is the goal/prize? (Verses 7-11 may be helpful in answering this question.) Why does Paul "forget what lies behind" and strive for what "lies ahead?" What is he referring to when he says, what 'lies behind' and what 'lies ahead?' How does this mindset relate to spiritual maturity that is mentioned in verse 15? Are you more prone to focusing on what lies behind you, or what lies ahead of you (as promised by God in these verses and others like it)? Read Revelation 21:1-5 together. What 'lies ahead' for believers? What does this imagery mean and how does it impact how you look at your life/purpose/future? What is the power behind this hope (verse 11)?

In verses 18-21 there is a contrast between those who have their minds set on earthly things and those whose citizenship is in heaven. Try to define what each of these perspectives look like using this text and other Biblical texts that you can think of. Make a list of how these two perspectives are different.

Christians live on earth, but are citizens of heaven. What does it mean to be a citizen of heaven as we live here on earth? In what ways can you express that citizenship in your home, school, environment, and workplace? In what ways do you tend to have a more earthly perspective? How could a perspective change, in light of this passage, change how you think and act? Encourage each other to come up with one concrete way you can apply these things to your life.