

**Investing In Relationships: The Book Of Philippians**  
**“Investing In Letting Go Of The Past” 6 of 8**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**March 14, 2021**

**Big Idea:** To enjoy the people in my life, I need to invest in my relationships.

**I Will Invest In Letting Go Of The Past By:**

**1. Facing My Faults**

“Not that I have already **obtained** all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.” **Philippians 3:12-13a (NIV)**

“He who **conceals** his sins **does not prosper**, but whoever **confesses** and **renounces** them finds **mercy**.” **Proverbs 28:13 (NIV)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Refusing To Dwell On The Past**

“But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind...**” **Philippians 3:13b (NIV)**

“Forget the former things; **do not dwell on the past**. See, I am doing a **new thing!** Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a **way in the desert** and streams in the wasteland.” **Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)**

“But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” **Genesis 50:19-20 (NLT2)**

“This means that anyone who **belongs** to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; **a new life has begun!**” **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)**

Jesus replied, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” **Luke 9:62 (NIV)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Focusing On The Future

“Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind** and **straining toward what is ahead**, I press on toward the **goal** to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are **mature** should take such a **view** of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.”

**Philippians 3:13-15 (NIV)**

Only let us **live up** to what we have already attained. Join with others in **following my example**, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the **pattern** we gave you. **Philippians 3:16-17 (NIV)**

For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, **many live as enemies of the cross of Christ**. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

**Philippians 3:18-19 (NIV)**

But our **citizenship** is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will **transform** our lowly bodies so that they will be **like his** glorious body.”

**Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV)**

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we **do not give up**. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

**Galatians 6:9-10 (NIV)**

➤ **Am I being held captive by my past?**

**My next right step I will invest in letting go by:**

- [ ] Writing down what I define as success for my life
- [ ] Letting go of my past and moving forward
- [ ] Writing down ways that help me to be faithful
- [ ] Accepting Jesus as my Lord and Savior
- [ ] Identifying with Christ with Believer’s Baptism

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**Icebreaker for families:** In your dreams of the ideal life, are you more like a pioneer or a settler? Why?

**Big Idea:** To enjoy the people in my life, I need to invest in my relationships.

**I Will Invest In Letting Go Of The Past By:**

**1. Facing My Faults**

**Read Philippians 3:10-13**

If our goal is to know Jesus and be like Him, how close are you?  
25%? 50%? 75%? 100%?

How did Paul describe his pursuit of knowing Christ?

How encouraging is it to know that we are all on a journey to know Jesus better?

**Read Proverbs 28:13**

How are we to respond when we blow it?

What does it mean to confess and renounce?

How does God respond of we do?

**2. Refusing To Dwell On The Past**

**Read Philippians 3:13**

Do you ever dwell on past successes or failures?

How can this negatively impact your present?

How can past hurts or failures negatively impact your present?

How can glorifying the “good old days” negatively impact your present?

**Read Isaiah 43:18-19**

How has God made a new way in your life?

**Read Genesis 50:19-20**

What good things has God done through painful experiences in your life?

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:17**

What is a promise you can hold on to?

How have you seen God at work in your life?

**Read Luke 9:62**

What might it look like if you kept looking over your shoulder while you drive?

What would it look like if you kept looking back and questioning your decision to follow Jesus?

**3. Focusing On The Future**

**Read Philippians 3:13-17**

In the imagery of a track race, where does Paul picture himself?

Who do you look to for an example of Christian living?

Who are you trying to bring example to?

**Read Philippians 3:18-19**

In society today, who would you say are the enemies of the cross?

**Read Philippians 3:20-21**

What do you look forward to the most when you think about heaven?

What in the past will you let go in order to focus on your present and your future?

Close in Prayer: **Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.**

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