

July 25th, Lean Into It

Part 3 in the series 'The End is Near'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Can you remember Jim's alternate version of the phrase used in the Star Trek title sequence?

A: Boldly go where no man has gone before —> Safely stay where everyone has already been.

Why do you think books, movies and TV shows with slogans and premises such as Star Trek's are so popular?

Do you think more people would rather read about or watch someone else 'boldly go where no man has gone before' than actually go themselves? Why/why not?

Read Philippians 3:4-14

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. **8** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. **10** I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. **13** Brothers and sisters, 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, **14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

What does Paul mean by verse 12 "to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."?

What does Paul decide to forget about and what does he decide to focus on instead?

Do you think Christians are tempted to take the focus off of what is ahead? What by?

Read

“If we let Him—for we can prevent Him, if we choose— He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or goddess, a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though, of course on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and goodness.” - C.S. Lewis

What do you think of C.S. Lewis’ words “for we can prevent Him, if we choose”?

Describe what you think is a balanced understanding of the following phrase: “God loves me just the way I am, *and* He loves me too much to leave me this way.”

Read 2 Samuel 23:9-10

Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty warriors, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim for battle. Then the Israelites retreated, **10** but Eleazar stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The Lord brought about a great victory that day.

If Eleazar is the one who stood his ground, why does the Biblical author write that the Lord brought about a great victory?

If God fights our battles, is our role passive?

Read Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

What’s the purpose of a yoke?

What kinds of things can we find ourselves yoked to?

If we find rest in Jesus, then why do we get given a yoke?