



**Thank You Notes #8: Imitating the Faithful
Philippians 3:15–4:1**

July 9, 2023

DAILY DEVOTION

Find a rhythm in God's word this week! Follow this 5-day plan on your own or with your group!

<https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/29941>

INSPIRATION

“Work hard, stay focused, and surround yourself with good people.”
“My hardest job is to convince the people of Nebraska that 10–1 is not a losing season.”
——Tom Osborne

ICE BREAKER

1. Who was the first person other than a family member you remember looking up to for guidance or help?
 2. What was the best life advice you received in high school or college? Did you follow it? Why or why not?
OR
Have you ever given advice for which someone later thanked you for it, or regretted not taking your advice?
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DEEP DIVE

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

“Sometimes you can read things – but then putting them into practice you need to see someone do it before you can figure it out for yourself. Just show me how you do this. There is something about learning from a book or even a video – but that can only take you so far – especially if you get stuck.”

Read Philippians 3:13–4:1 and then answer the following questions:



3. In vs. 15, Paul says mature believers should “think this way.” He’s referring to what he wrote in 13–14, pressing on. What does Paul mean then in vs. 16 when he concludes we should “hold true to what we have attained”?
4. Why do you think Paul was able to put himself forward as an example of following Christ? Don’t be shy, but are there any areas of your life where you could encourage someone to follow your example, that is, could you be someone Paul uses as an example of following Christ?
5. Obviously, none of us is perfect. We make mistakes. Paul surely must have known that about himself and those he ministered to. How can you be an example in spite of your imperfections? Are there some disqualifying mistakes or ways of life that could negatively affect your example?

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

“We talk a lot about finding mentors in the workplace – people we can call and learn from – either from their mistakes or their successes. In sports you have coaches who can bring out the best in your game – see things that you are not seeing and help you get to the next level if you are willing to be humble and do the work.”

Read Ephesians 5:1–2; John 13:13–15; Philippians 3:18–4:1 and then answer the following questions:

6. Tom Osborne said: “The odds are always against you no matter what your previous history is. You have to overcome the tendency to relax.” If you’re a Christ-follower now, think of a time when you knew or didn’t care that you were not doing God’s will. What is your life like now as opposed to then? How has God’s forgiveness changed your way of thinking?
7. You don’t have to look too far anymore to recognize those who “walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.” How does your heavenly citizenship impact your resolve to continue living for Christ in the face of so much cultural opposition today? How inclined are you to speak forth the good news to those who need to hear it?
8. In 3:20–21, what is your hope as Christ followers, both for the world around you and for you personally? What is Paul’s final exhortation in 4:1? How can the church or your small group help you do that?

Additional Study

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:

- Romans 7:7–25
- Romans 8:1–11
- 2 Corinthians 10:1–11
- Ephesians 2:1–10



NEXT STEPS

9. How are you going to apply the lessons learned in the message this week?
10. What can you do to encourage someone in your group to take their next step?

PRAYER

1. After sharing prayer requests, pray for the person on your right. Pray for that person throughout the week.
2. Is there someone in your group that could use a prayerful reminder that God is present in their lives?

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- **BENSON** - Local Mission Partner is ABIDE. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- **MILLARD** - Local Mission Partner is Heartland Hope. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- **FREMONT** - Local Mission Partner is LifeHouse. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- **OMAHA** - Local Mission Partner is Open Door Mission. Contact Lyndsey Deyoe for more information.
- Or get to know your community! Seek out service opportunities in your area.