

# Philippians: To Live is Christ, To Die is Gain

## Session **Seven**: Never Satisfied

**Part A)** Chandler opens with a discussion on obedience, as he mentions that many people struggle with the application of obedience in their own lives - most don't know how or when to practice the obedience they have learned about their entire lives as church goers. Further, Chandler stresses, with reference to Philippians Chapter 3, verses 12 and 13, that he must not ever be satisfied any obedience or actions as believers in Christ, developing what he calls a "holy discontentment" with ourselves: "**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" (NIV Translation).

**Why might "holy discontentment" with oneself be such a challenging attribute of Christianity for new believers or those beginning their journeys of faith? Be sure to watch the video all the way through before answering.**

**Why must we never feel satisfied with ourselves and our actions as believers in Christ?**

**Part B)** "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead..." (Philippians 3, 13 - NIV Translation). Throughout scripture, God has asked us to not forget our pasts; however, that seems to be Paul's message at first glance of this verse. Chandler goes on to explain that Paul's words are not meant to contradict any old testament understanding of memory, but his words mean that we should look to our ongoing actions and beliefs. No one action or word from one's past reveals an eternal obedience to God, and that type of legalistic thinking creates for little growth in faith.

**What is the most profound story about Jesus' travels and interactions that stood out to you as a new believer or youngster? What if Jesus had just stopped there? How is Jesus a model for ongoing growth in faith?**

**Part C)** In the second half of this seventh session, Chandler spends time considering the word choices of Paul, specifically those that present faith as a serious matter of focus, urgency, and improvement. Finally, to close, Chandler returns to his opening ideas: How can our "holy discontentment" inform being a better Christian? How can we set goals to improve in our faith?

**What is your weakness as a Christian? What will you do this week, month, or year to improve?**