

Enduring Christian faith is built on tangible daily pursuits

Point #1 – Pursue Daily Holiness (vs. 1)

- 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20
- John 21:15-19
- Jeremiah 3:15

Point #2 – Pursue Daily Unity (vs. 2-3)

Point #3 – Pursue Daily Joy (vs. 4)

- Philippians 2:12-13
- Nehemiah 8:10

Point #4 – Pursue Daily Reasonableness (vs. 5)

Point #5 – Pursue Daily Peace (vs. 6-7)

- Matthew 6:25-34
- 1 Peter 5:7
- Psalm 91:2
- John 16:31

Point #6 – Pursue Daily Wisdom (vs. 8-9)

- Romans 12:2
- Ephesians 4:15,25
- Isaiah 52:7
- 1 Corinthians 11:1

Jesus Christ Himself was the perfect embodiment of each one. He is the one who called Himself the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). Who is worthy of more honor than the one who emptied Himself and was obedient to the point of death on the cross, and as a result received the name above every name (Phil. 2:7–9)? Jesus Christ is the true righteous/just one who lived a life of perfect obedience (Rom. 5:12–21; 1 Pet. 2:21–25) and gives that righteousness to His people in exchange for their sin (Phil. 3:9; 2 Cor. 5:21). He was also the pure and spotless lamb who offered Himself as a sin-offering for His people so that they too might be pure in Him (Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:19; 1 John 3:3). Who is more lovely than Jesus Christ, the lion of the tribe of Judah who defeats our enemies while at the same time being the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29; Rev. 5:5–6)? No one is more commendable than Jesus Christ, before whom every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He is the Lord of all things (Phil. 2:9–11). In Jesus Christ all the excellencies of God dwell in bodily form (Col. 2:9), and as such they are worthy to be proclaimed to all we may come in contact with (1 Pet. 2:10).

Matthew Harmon *Philippians: A Mentor Commentary*

Questions for Reflection:

1. Read the following Scriptures: Psalm 133:1; Romans 12:16; 14:19; 15:5; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 4:3; 1 Peter 3:8. How important is it for believers in Christ to maintain unity? What can be done to promote improved relationships?
2. Why are hard conversations sometimes necessary to have with others?
3. What would happen if you and others lived lives of constant rejoicing?
4. What does anxiety do to you, how does it affect others, and what tangible steps can you take to fight against it? What would the result of that look like?
5. Why is Paul so concerned with what we think? Do you share that concern?
6. How are you doing in the discipline of spending unhurried, unhindered time with God? Can you think of a time when you experienced the peace that comes from being in God's presence?
7. Of all the commands in this passage, which is the hardest for you and why?

Adapted from *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Philippians* by Tony Merida & Francis Chan