



# “Be of Good Cheer”

Philippians 3:12-16

# “Be of Good Cheer”

- Matt. 9:2 - “Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, Son, **be of good cheer**; your sins are forgiven you.”
- John 16:33 - “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but **be of good cheer**, I have overcome the world.”

# “Be of Good Cheer”

- Jesus stated two great facts that enable Christians to be of good cheer regardless of any and all circumstances:
  - Our sins are forgiven in Jesus Christ
  - Jesus Christ has given us the ultimate victory over this world

# “Be of Good Cheer”

- Phil. 3:13-16 - “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.”

# “Be of Good Cheer”

- From a worldly perspective, Paul had every reason to be unhappy; but, he was forgiven, and that made all of the difference.
- Therefore, he went forward doing what was right without letting the past interfere with his work.
- God gives us power to do this through His word.

# “Be of Good Cheer”

- Rom. 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”
- Eph. 3:20-21 - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

# “Be of Good Cheer”

- Holding onto yesterday's pain, bearing grudges, and remembering losses make memories of the past unhappy, paralyses the present, and steals away the future.
- “You will find that it is necessary to let things go; simply for the reason that they are heavy. So let them go, let go of them. I tie no weights to my ankles.” (*C. JoyBell C.*)
- “When we forgive, the slave we free is ourselves.” (*Edward Hallowell*)
- “Getting angry is like burning yourself with other people's fires. Sometimes forgiving someone is not because he's really sorry and deserved it, but because we were worthy of tranquility.” (*D. Mridha*)

# “Be of Good Cheer”

- Let us resolve to be of good cheer
  - Bury the past
  - Look ahead
  - Put complete trust in God
  - Work as if today was our last day



# Bury The Past

- This does not mean we cannot learn from the past
  - Rom. 15:4 - “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning...”
  - 1Cor. 10:11 - “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition...”

# Bury The Past

- However, since we cannot change the past, we should not try to live in it
  - Joshua 1:1-2, 6, 9 - “After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 ‘Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them-the children of Israel... Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.’”
  - Daniel 1:8-12

# Bury The Past

- Paul could have dwelled on the past and destroyed his present and future
  - He could have regretted what he lost in Judaism to gain Christ - Phil. 3:4-8
  - He could have allowed regret over his past sins rob him of joy and zeal in the present - Acts 26:9-11

# Bury The Past

- Forgiveness is dealing positively with a negative past
  - Matt. 18:21-22 - “Then Peter came to Him and said, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’ 22 Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’”

# Bury The Past

- Forgiveness is not just for our penitent brother; it is for our own forgiveness as well
  - Matt. 18:35 - “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”
- Forgiveness and forgetting is for our own well-being; God forgives us for His own sake
  - Isa. 43:25 - “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.”

# Bury The Past

- We need to remember that we still have the potential and power to do good
  - 2Cor. 6:2 - “For He says: In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”
  - Phil. 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

# Bury The Past

- Our decisions occur in the present.
- Our actions occur in the present.
- We live in the present.

# To Look Ahead

- We must run the race - 1Cor. 9:24-27
  - Run to obtain
  - Run with conviction
  - Run with determination



# To Look Ahead

- No one here today has finished their race
  - Heb. 12:1 - “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”
  - 1Cor. 15:58 - “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

# To Look Ahead

- Look toward the future
  - Phil. 3:13-14 - “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
  - 2Cor. 4:1 - “Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.”

# Put Complete Trust In God

- Christ makes all things new
  - 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
  - Rev. 21:5 - “Then He who sat on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new...”

# Put Complete Trust In God

- Christ makes all things possible
  - Phil. 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
  - John 15:7-8 - “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

# Put Complete Trust In God

- God has given us a place in an unshakeable kingdom
  - Heb. 12:28 - “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”

# Put Complete Trust In God

- God has given us the perfect pattern for life
  - 2Peter 1:3 - “As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...”
  - 2Tim. 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

# Put Complete Trust In God

- Since God has done His part, with whom lies the variable? With us.
- “Be optimistic. To the pessimist, doors have locks and latches; but, to the optimist, doors have handles and hinges.” *(William Arthur Ward)*

# Work As If Today Was Our Last Day

- What would we do if this were our last Sunday as a congregation?
- Would it put everything into perspective?
- Would we end our disputes, disregard our differences, and dispense with our dislikes?
- Would we sing a little louder, “Amen” a bit more often, remember the Savior more reverently, honor God more wholeheartedly, greet one another more affectionately?



# Work As If Today Was Our Last Day

- We need to do that with ourselves; get rid of all hindrances and excuses.
  - “No one is perfect.”
  - “I don’t have any ability or talent.”
  - “I have failed too many times.”
  - “Others won’t listen to me.”
  - “Too many people and/or circumstances are working against me.”

# Work As If Today Was Our Last Day

- Learn from Moses; God took away all of his excuses.
  - Ex. 3:11, 4:1, 10
  - Moses said, “What will I tell them?” “What if they won’t listen to me?” “I am slow of tongue.”
  - God said, “I will be with you.” “Tell them the great “I AM” sent you.” “Show them the miracles.” “Take Aaron with you”
  - God accepted no excuses from Moses. He is no respecter of persons. What makes us think he will accept any excuses from us?

# Work As If Today Was Our Last Day

- Let us work cheerfully, heartily, with all our might
  - Col. 3:23-24 - “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”
  - Ecc. 9:10 - “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.”

# Work As If Today Was Our Last Day

- We are only here a little while; we must avoid wasting time on things we can do nothing about
  - James 4:13-14 - “Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”

# “Be of Good Cheer”

- “God would not bring you through the Red Sea only to allow you to perish in a fish pond.”  
*(John Dent, Jr.)*
- 2Tim. 4:7-8 - “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”