

# NO TURNING BACK

## PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3

## JULY 24 & 25, 2010

### IN A NUTSHELL

In the movie Rocky III, Apollo Creed is training Rocky Balboa for his big fight with the bully Clubber Lang. Rocky is having trouble focusing on his training and lacks the will to push to the point of total commitment, the no turning back point. He tells Apollo, "let's do it tomorrow..." Apollo immediately responds, "there is no tomorrow...there is no tomorrow!" God wants us now: our time, energy, devotion, commitment.

### TALK IT OUT

1. Paul says to us, "whatever happens...rejoice in the Lord...and I do it to safeguard your faith." Oh really? Safeguard my faith? Do you think the writer Paul knew that in times of trial and stress that our faith may wander too? Discuss this. In Psalm 62:1-2, David writes, "I am at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will never be shaken." How can we never be shaken as believers in Christ?
2. The great Reformation leader Martin Luther's most pointed message was that we are saved, not by works, but by God's grace through faith. Do you struggle with accepting the free GIFT of God's unconditional love? Do you struggle accepting God's forgiveness? How about Jesus' death that releases us from sin? Study and discuss Ephesians 2:8-9.
3. In Philippians 3:8-9 Paul places an outcome of knowing Christ Jesus as my Lord: INFINITE VALUE! That means a never ending supply of knowledge and wisdom! But, wisdom comes with a price....DISCARDING things (like an old way of thinking) and counting it all as garbage! To the worldly heart that is offensive! For our spiritual heart, it is confession, healing and transformation! What does it take to live a transformed life?
4. How do I share in His death (verses 10-11)? How do I experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead? How do I suffer with Him? Could it be with a servant heart or attitude? Do I deny anything contrary to God's will or word? What things in my life do I need to suffer over? Can I be humble and gracious in my suffering? Do I have my faith that can sustain me? Discuss these questions of the faith.

### DRAW IT OUT

What a beautiful verse Paul gives us in 12-14! "...forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead..." Do we have trouble with forgetting and letting go of OUR PAST! LET IT GO! Don't be a victim of your past! That contradicts God's purpose for who you are and invalidates Jesus' death and resurrection! He uses the action verb "straining". Can you feel the grimace and pull of the strain? Do you believe God is there in the middle of the storm molding and perfecting you, transforming you to His perfect will and in His perfect timing?

### LIVE IT

Pastor Todd has set forth a challenge for us in verses Philippians 1:27 and 1 Timothy 4:12 and offers us a reminder of WHO we belong to. Check out the sermon notes on this. Start today to: conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ; set an example for the believers (the body of Christ) in speech, life, love, faith and purity. Let this be your morning devotion and try it out every day this week. Live righteous!