

**Man Up**  
**Figuring Out What is Important**

**Colossians 3:17, 23-24**  
**Romans 8:31-39; Philippians 3:10-14**  
**(January 13-19, 2019)**

But yield who will to their separation,  
My object in living is to unite  
My avocation and my vocation  
As my two eyes make one in sight.  
Only where love and need are one,  
And the work is play for mortal stakes,  
Is the deed ever really done  
For heaven and the future's sakes.  
—Robert Frost

Robert Frost's poem *Two Tramps in Mud Time*, from which the above excerpt was taken, is subject to differing interpretations. However, the above excerpt clearly implores us to align our life's work with our passions, rather than chasing a vocation for improper reasons. We should make love and need one. No matter where you are in your vocation, whether just starting out or 30 years in, working there for Christ can help unite your avocation or passion with your vocation. Jesus can use you. Are you ready?

**Answer and discuss the following question with your group.**

1. When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up? What motivated you?

**Read the following excerpt out loud or watch message segment #1.**

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, "Figuring Out What is Important".

For guys, figuring out what you want to do for a living can be a real big deal. We get really wrapped up in the job that we have. Our identity, our self-worth is often connected with what we do for a living and how much money we bring in.

What do we ask a guy when we first meet them, "What do you do for a living?"

Does the Bible talk much about what we do for a living? Not really. It has a lot to say about how I work when I have a job.

**Read Colossians 3:17, 23-24 and answer/discuss the following questions**

2. When considering how to become the person you want to be; why did the apostle Paul instruct us to always be a representative of Jesus? How does representing Jesus affect our priorities and motivations?

3. Explain how consistently striving to represent Jesus in your work, home and private life can help you grow closer to him. How might your actions in representing Jesus affect your family life, work, and friendships?
  
4. What is the nexus between working for Jesus today and our inheritance tomorrow?  
Explain how this nexus can motivate our decisions and actions today.

**Read the following excerpt out loud or watch message segment #2.**

An excerpt from the StoneBridge message, "Figuring Out What is Important".

You are a child of the living God. Paul was grasped by God for a purpose. So were you. And some of you are letting your past get in the way. Since God has forgiven and forgotten, it is time to move on.

I press on... toward the goal. To be like Jesus. I want to be like him in my attitude and in my action. That is it. That is my goal. That is my one thing. And I will have to press toward that goal.

**Read Romans 8:31-39 and Philippians 3:10-14 and answer/discuss the following questions.**

5. According to Romans 8:31-39, what is the antidote to worrying about our self worth? What should be our first priority in changing from where we are to where we want to be?
  
6. A personal relationship with God can give us direction and courage in life, and motivate life change. Explain the difference between knowing God, on the one hand, and engaging in activities such as attending church, engaging in Bible study or volunteering, on the other hand.
  
7. Our past inhibits many of us from moving forward. What is Paul's one thing to focus on in getting past your past?

**Reflection and Wrap-up**

8. Are you a representative of Jesus? What actions and motivations can you change this week to be a better representative of Jesus in your work, home, and private life?

9. Explain how joining a small group this week can help you press toward the goal of being like Jesus.

### **Pray Together as a Group**

#### **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:

- 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
- 1 Timothy 5:8
- Matthew 6:24-34
- Daniel 11:32
- Acts 5:29
- Romans 8:10-11

#### **Just Saying**

Forget the past - look forward to the future.

Looking forward to what's next.

I press on toward the goal.