

**“TEACHING THE WORD OF LIFE”**  
Philippians 3:12-16

**TODAY’S FOCUS:** Discipleship Ministry

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** “People of Faith Are Lifelong Learners”

**THE CHALLENGE OF BEING A DISCIPLE**

1. The problem of achievement (Philippians 3:12)
2. The problem of focus (Philippians 3:13).
3. The problem of complacency (Philippians 3:14)

**THE REQUIREMENTS OF BEING A DISCIPLE**

1. A disciple is a learner (2 Timothy 2:15).
2. A disciple is a servant (Philippians 2:7).
3. A disciple is a steward (1 John 3:16-18).

**THE GOAL OF THE DISCIPLE**

1. The desire to know Christ (Philippians 3:10).
2. The power to live victoriously (Ephesians 1:19-20).
3. The determination to finish well (Philippians 3:16).

**“If you thought living the Christian life is easy,  
then you haven’t lived it!”**  
—D. Collins

Next Week: **H**onoring God through passionate worship

All Church Banquet: May 22, 2010



## **TEACHING THE WORD OF LIFE**

A mother told her little girl about her childhood: “We used to skate on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods.” Wide-eyed, the little girl replied, “I sure wish I’d gotten to know you sooner!”

Many a believer in Jesus has said, “I wish I had gotten to know Him sooner.” We can’t undo the past, but the good news is we can start where we are, to become what God wants us to be.

God was so concerned about us He gave us an owner’s manual. We call it the Holy Bible. Everything we need to know about discipleship is in this best-selling book.

Our Heavenly Father goes even further to make sure we understand His promises and provisions. He gives us pastors, Sunday School teachers, small-group leaders and others to explain His Word to us. These people have discovered the secrets to successful Christian living. As they share from their own experiences and knowledge of God’s Word, we are encouraged and enabled to apply God’s instructions to our own lives.

As we benefit from the knowledge of good Bible teachers, we should, in turn, share what we have learned with others. God’s Word is not to be hoarded. It is to be shared generously. Just as we freely receive His Word, so we must freely share it.

As the Holy Spirit applies the truth of the Bible to our hearts, we realize how powerful it is in times of triumph or trial. The more we expose ourselves to Scripture, the more like Christ we become.

Let’s seek to become a teaching, discipling congregation as we move *Forward in Faith*.

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