

## Unpacking the Preach

Date: 28th March 2021  
Sermon Title: Pursuits: the lifestyle we persistently seek  
Bible Passage: Philippians 3: 1 - 14

### **Recapping the Preach**

Throughout March we will be exploring the 4P's for KBC: prophecy, priorities, purpose and pursuits as we reset our focus as a faith family. Previously we have looked at Prophecy, Priorities and purpose and this week we will be focusing on PURSUITS: the lifestyle we persistently seek. Begin by taking a moment to read through Philippians 3:1-14.

- What stood out to you from this passage?
- What questions do you have?

Stu began by highlighting several points from Philippians 3:1-14 regarding what it means to pursue. He described pursuing as: having a specific goal in mind, acknowledging we haven't arrive yet, requires letting go and changing direction, will result in opposition and the need to forget what is behind.

- When you think of the phrase *Pursuits: the lifestyle we persistently seek*, what comes to mind?
- How would you describe Paul's pursuit to know Christ?
- Looking at the above list describing 'pursuing' - what would you add?
- Which one of the above descriptors of 'pursuing' is most important to you at the moment? Which one are you working on with God?

Stu went on to briefly describe the six pursuits we have identified for ourselves as a church, pursuits that work positively towards fulfilling our purpose and priorities. He then unpacked how each pursuit can be seen in the life of Paul. It would be difficult in this study to cover all these pursuits but chose 2 - 3 to explore together in more detail.

We pursue an encounter with God

- What do you understand by the phrase 'encounter with God'?
- When was the last time you encountered the Presence of God?
- What are the things you can do to intentionally position yourself to encounter God?

We pursue a positive life balance

- Do you have a positive life balance at the moment?
- What would the best positive life balance look like for you? What would it include?
- How badly do you want to pursue this? Enough to make the necessary changes in your life?

We pursue relationships

- Where are you pursuing relationships with other people in our faith family?
- What stops you from pursuing relationships with other people?
- Are you building relationships both in and out of the church?

We pursue generosity

- What would you say to someone who had an either/or approach to generosity. For example they might say, 'I don't give generously of my time in church, because I already give financially' (or vice versa)?
- What do think it means to give: generously, sacrificially, proportionately and cheerfully?

We pursue personal evangelism

- How confident are you in sharing your testimony?
- What are the things that hinder personal evangelism for you?
- How can you work to overcome these hindrances?

We pursue a life of sacrifice

- What does a 'life of sacrifice' mean to you?
- Why do you think, we sometimes struggle with 'living a life of sacrifice'?
- In what ways are you living a life of sacrifice at present? How are you saying no to self, in order to say yes to God?

### **Response**

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Which of these pursuits do you most need to grow in?

### **Prayer pointers**

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that as we prepare to adopt the 4Ps in June, we would have a clear understanding of them and what they require of us.
- Pray for one another that we would have the desire to seek God and pursue Christ.

### **Additional resources:**

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>