

Don't Be Distracted

Titus 3:9

Do not get involved in foolish discussions about spiritual pedigrees or in quarrels and fights about obedience to Jewish laws. These things are useless and a waste of time.

Titus 3:9 NLT

1. When you think about your investment in ministry here (or, if you are visiting, your home church) or your investment in the Kingdom as a follower of Christ…would your thoughts, words, and actions be considered profitable and worthwhile or unprofitable and worthless?

2. Philippians 4:8 reminds us to fix our thoughts on what is true and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. As you evaluate your days, where are you most likely to fix your thoughts? Where may God be shining a light on useless conversations in your life? Where has your opinion become "gospel truth"?

3. Philippians 4:2-3 remind us that strife in the church is serious. It can lead to dissolving unity, inviting the devil into the church, it taints our testimony, damages our integrity and worst of all it distracts from the gospel. What are the relationships that you need to reconcile with those that you disagree with? Where may you be allowing diversity to distract and divide from God's purpose?

4. When are we encouraged to fight the good fight of faith, and when are we encouraged not to get involved? What should be the lens that we discern this response?

5. Study Philippians 3:10. Is your top priority to know Christ?

Philippians 3:3-11 NLT

[3]For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, [4]though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! [5]I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. [6]I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. [7]I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. [8]Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ [9]and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. [10]I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, [11]so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

I Want To Know You (City Alight)

I've tried in vain a thousand ways
My fears to quell, my hopes to raise
But what I need, Your word has said
Is ever, only, Jesus
You died, you live, you reign, you plead
There's love in all your words and deeds
This weary heart finds all it needs
In ever, only, Jesus
I want to know you, Jesus my Lord
King of the Heavens, King of my soul
I trade my treasure and all my rewards
Jesus to know you, then know you more
Though some should curse me for your name
I have no fear, I have no shame
You stand with me for all my days
My ever, only, Jesus
Like wave after wave on the ocean
Like all of the sand on the shore
Your beauty and glory are endless
O Jesus I must know you more