

## Week 37 – Questions to Consider

Colossians 3-4, 1 Thessalonians 1-3

### Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What phone emoji do you use the most?

1. Do you find it easier to focus on the past, present, or future? Why?
2. In what ways can focusing on the past be helpful? In what ways can focusing on the past be distracting, destructive to others, and dangerous to yourself?
3. How can we practically “set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Colossians 3:2)?
4. Do we tend towards putting sin “on a shelf for later” or putting it “to death” (Colossians 3:5)? Why are “earthly things” warned against so severely? What are some of the examples that stand out to you? (See Colossians 3:5-11)
5. What sorts of things does God tell us to “put on”? (See Colossians 3:12-17). If you had to pick just one area to grow in the next week, which area would you pick?
6. Why does Satan attack marriages, families, and workplaces so hard? Why does God give such specific instructions for these environments in Colossians 3:18-4:1?
7. What does it mean to “walk in wisdom towards outsiders”? How can we do that better? For what purposes? (Colossians 4:2-6)
8. Why do you think 1 Thessalonians starts with such gratitude (1 Thessalonians 1:2-10)? What spiritual blessings do we often take for granted? How can we intentionally more thankful?
9. What are some ways you have sought to “please God” (1 Thessalonians 2:4) in your lifetime?
10. How has God shown you that the Bible is not “the word of men” but is really the “word of God” (1 Thess 2:13)? How have you improved in your study of God’s Word over the years? How to you aim to continue to grow?

More questions at: [www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions](http://www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions)

## Forever Forward: How to Forget Your Unhelpful Past & How to Focus to the Future

Philippians 3:13–14 “Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [14] I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (ESV)

### 3 Helpful Steps to Remember & Grow from Your Past

*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*

#### 1. **R\_\_\_\_\_ from it**

Acts 3:19 “Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out”

#### 2. **Forgive from it**

Colossians 3:13 “bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

#### 3. **T\_\_\_\_\_ from it**

2 Timothy 2:2 “what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also”

2 Corinthians 2:11 “so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”

## 4 Ways to Forget Your Unhelpful Past

*But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind*

### 1. Genuinely forgive

Matthew 6:14–15 “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, [15] but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

### 2. R\_\_\_\_\_ & r\_\_\_\_\_ reminders when possible

Colossians 3:2-3 “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. [3] For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

### 3. Guard your mind from Satan’s attacks

- Recognize the Devil’s lies
- Resist worldly temptations
- Refuse sinful bitterness & condemnation

2 Corinthians 10:5 “take every thought captive to obey Christ”

Romans 8:1–2 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

### 4. K\_\_\_\_\_ your focus on your eternal future

Colossians 3:1 “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”

Colossians 3:4 “When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

## 10 Steps to Fight Forward

*But one thing I do...straining forward to what lies ahead*

1. Why Does Your Future Matter Most - KNOW
2. Who Is Your Focus - LISTEN
3. Who Do You Know Who Lives Like Jesus - WATCH
4. Who Do You Need to Give More Time To - INVEST
5. Who Do You Need to Watch Out For - GUARD
6. How Do You Want to Be More Like Jesus - GROW
7. Where Do You Want to End Up - AIM
8. When Are You Going to Change - JUST DO IT
9. What Are You Willing to Do - COMMIT
10. Who Will Help You - ASK

Colossians 3:18–25, 4:1 **Wives**, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **Husbands**, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. **Children**, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. **Fathers**, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. **Bondservants [employees]**, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men*, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. [25] For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. **Masters [bosses]**, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.”

### **This Next Week’s New Testament Reading Plan:**

- Week 38: 1 Thessalonians 4 & 5, 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** [www.southfork.church/jesus](http://www.southfork.church/jesus)
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** [remind.com/join/sfbcdevo](http://remind.com/join/sfbcdevo)
- **Our Plan:** [www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan](http://www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan)

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### 12. Forgive from it

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### 13. Teach from it

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