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ADVANCING
GOOD NEWS

Advancing Good News

Philippians 1.12-18

Power Point now available on the Saturday prior to Sunday's message at www.gvbc.net

Click on "Sermons" then "Powerpoint".

For mobile devices download Microsoft's Powerpoint app first.



Outline

Advancing beyond ourselves vv.12-14

Advancing beyond others vv.15-17

Advancing beyond all categories vs.18

Advancing beyond ourselves
vv.12-14



What do we need to advance?

An absorbing purpose which bends all circumstances to its service and values them only as instruments.



“The ‘gospel’ is the announcement of God’s inbreaking kingdom and is both the fulfillment of prophecy and a challenge to the world’s present rulers. ‘Gospel’ is an important shorthand for both the message of Jesus himself, and the apostolic message about him. It is the good news that the crucified and risen Jesus is the Messiah of Israel and therefore the Lord of the world. Jesus is the Gospel.”

NT Wright



From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. Matthew 11.12



Chief Opposition to Advancing: Ourselves

- Fear of Man
- Identity in Christ
- Confidence

Fear of Man

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba*, Father.”

Romans 8.15

Identity in Christ

“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2.10



What you tolerate will dominate.

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Confidence

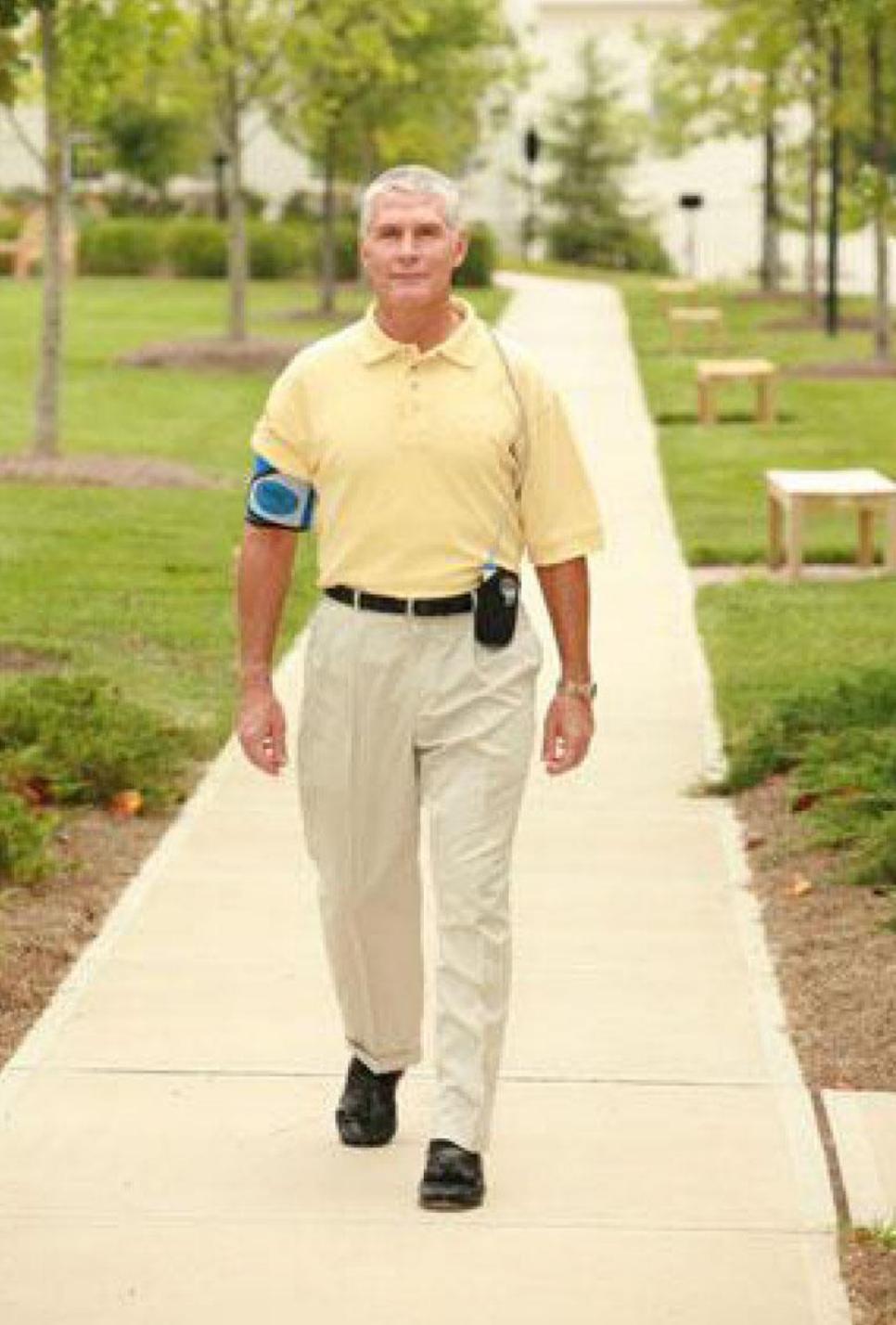
If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

I John 3.20-22



Advancing beyond others

vv.15-17



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Biblical model for advancing beyond others

Detachment

- But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. John 2.24
- Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. John 8.8
- Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ. Galatians 1.10

Biblical model for advancing beyond others

Attachment

- I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. John 5.30
- The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him. John 8.29
- We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 2.4

Advancing beyond all categories vs.18



“A person who hasn’t discovered something he will die for, isn’t fit to live.”

Martin Luther King



For Reflection:

- 1) “In this world you will have trouble.” John 16.33
Being a follower of Jesus means facing opposition.
How can you prepare for challenges not with paranoia, but anticipation of opportunity?
- 2) As you consider “detachment” and “attachment”,
what adjustments do you need to make?
- 3) Lord Jesus, I bring to you my fear of people, my
confusion about my identity and my struggle with
confidence and lay all three at your feet. In exchange
I ask for courage, clarity and confidence.

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