

“Optimistic Christians”

Phil. 3:13-16

Introduction

- I. Of all people, Christians should be some of the most optimistic that you can find.
- II. Sure, we all have problems that come our ways, but we can always have optimism.
- III. Paul is a great example how optimism can help us in our lives (cf. Eph. 3:20-21).

Discussion

- I. The past cannot control our futures.
 - A. We must remember how properly to utilize the past (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11).
 - B. We must not “live in the past”.
 1. Joshua (Jos. 1:1-2, 6, 9).
 2. Daniel (Dan. 1:3-16).
 - C. We must believe in a better future (Matt. 18:21-22).
 - D. Before we can have a better future, we need to take care of things today (2 Cor. 6:2).
- II. Our optimism is heightened by knowing what is ahead.
 - A. None of us are finished as of yet (1 Cor. 9:24-27).
 - B. We have enough evidence for our optimism (Heb. 12:1-2).
 - C. This is what Paul did in his life (Phil. 3:13-16; 2 Cor. 4:16).
- III. We cannot be optimistic because we trust God.
 - A. Christians have a “new life” (2 Cor. 5:17; Rev. 21:5).
 - B. We will overcome whatever we must face (Phil. 4:13; John 15:4-8).
 - C. Man cannot overcome the kingdom of God (Heb. 12:28).

Conclusion

- I. Christians show their optimism by doing the will of God (Col. 3:23-24; Eccl. 9:10; James 4:13-15).
- II. Again, Christians should be some of the most optimistic people that you can find.