

## Getting Started

1. As you reflect on last week's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?
2. Do you agree with the assessment of our culture that says we are achievement-oriented? If so, in our society, where do most Americans feel the pressure to achieve? Or, what can you point to in our daily lives that tempt us to evaluate our lives based on our achievements?
3. What expectations does culture put on men? Women? Young people?

## Into the Bible

4. The Bible consistently speaks to the desire for people to find their value and/or satisfaction in their own accomplishments (outside of Christ). Review the passages below and write down any insights, questions, or observations about how the Bible speaks to people finding their identity (their value, or their worth) in their achievements
  - a. **Revelation 3:14-22**

## **b. Philippians 3:3-10**

### Connecting the Dots

5. What area(s) in your life, do you sense the subtle pressure to achieve in order to be valued? (Career, family, perfectionism, etc) How does this pressure affect you? What emotions do you struggle with when you fail to accomplish what you desire?
6. How does knowing we have "***every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places***" free us from the temptation to find our value in what the world says we ought to?
7. If you really believed these truths (see a-c), name at least 3 things that would be different about your life?
  - a. Your place in heaven is so secure it is as if you are already there (in the heavenly places)
  - b. God loves you – always has, always will
  - c. There is nothing you have ever done or will do that will cause God to abandon His purposes for you