



Key References:

Philippians 3:13–14 (ESV)

¹³ 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.

Ephesians 1:22–23 (ESV)

²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Acts 7:55–60 (ESV)

⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

1 Timothy 3:8–10 (ESV)

⁸ Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.

1 – Settling and Pioneering

At Oceanside this Sunday we announced that the Eales family are being realised to plant a church later this year. **Share your thoughts on this great news.**

Rus mentioned how they never wanted to be “*settlers in the promised land*” but pioneers God’s Kingdom. **Is being in a settled season a bad thing? What does it mean to be a pioneer for God’s Kingdom?**

Rus said: “*If we become settlers and stops following the purposes of God in our lives we will become convenient Christians*”. **The longer you’ve been in Nanaimo do you feel like you’re becoming more or less of a convenient Christian?**

Reading Philippians 3:13-14 how can we strain forward and press on even while being in a settled season? What is the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?

If God were to call you to pioneer something for His Kingdom what do you think it would be? How does someone hear the call of God for something as bold as planting a church?

Read Ephesians 1:22-23. **If we know that everything is under Jesus’ feet what confidence does that give us to be bold pioneers?**

2 – Deacons

What are Deacons? What is their role in the church? How do they differ from elders? Can anyone become a deacon?

Read Acts 6:1-8. This is an example of Deacons being appointed. **Why were they appointed here? What happened to Stephen who was appointed here (Acts 7:55-60)? What does his martyrdom indicate about the honour that the Deacon office holds?**

From 1 Tim 3:8-13 what are the moral, spiritual and home-life qualifications for Deacons?