



June 29/30, 2019 • Dr. Bill Shiell, President of Northern Seminary

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Reflect: Dr. Shiell shared several exciting initiatives of how Northern Seminary educates and forms people with the Word of God.

- *What are ways you build up your biblical knowledge formally and informally?*
- *What classes have you taken here at Christ Church that have been helpful?*
- *What classes would you like to have available? We would love to hear from you, please email us (Eric Haskins) and let us know: ehaskins@ChristChurch.us.*

Read: [Philippians 1:27-30](#) (Using this link will take you to [BibleGateway.com](#) where you can explore this pass through three preselected translations of the scripture.)

- *What word or phrase stands out to you upon reading it? Why do you think that is?*
- *What do you discover by reading it in different translations?*

Reflect: Dr. Shiell reminded us that, “We have been sent by God as citizens of a heavenly kingdom to live as good citizens of America. The way we conduct ourselves as citizens of America (1:27) is actually a dress rehearsal for the way we will conduct ourselves as heavenly citizens (3:20).”

- *What makes a good citizen of America? How does that relate to being a good citizen of heaven?*
- *Where do you experience tension in being a good citizen of America and living out our calling to be citizens in heaven first and foremost?*

We see in our key passage the Apostle Paul saying the best way to celebrate our freedom is to “live as citizens worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

- *Prayerfully think through your life - follower of Jesus, a family member, church community, work, friend - what does it mean for you to live worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Journal or share practical ideas.*

Dr. Shiell shared how the Apostle Paul says like colonists who first came to Philippi or to America, we face two kinds of threats—external and internal.

External Threats: There are times when good Christians run counter to secular American values. In Philippi, in [Acts 16](#), Paul was not imprisoned for opposition to Rome. He was imprisoned for allegiance to Jesus as Lord and the economic effect it had on the local economy.

- *Where have you seen or experienced those times when our allegiance to Jesus runs counter to American values? How do you handle this in your own life?*



Internal Threats: Dr. Shiell challenged us to consider how our greatest threat is internal pettiness, argumentativeness, and venting in the ranks caused by selfish ambitions, spilling over into what we say about the church to others and to our families.

- *Upon reading these challenging words by Dr. Shiell what is your response?*
- *How do you prevent this from happening and as Dr. Shiell challenged “have each other’s backs?”*

Training vs. Trying: Dr. Shiell encouraged us to remember we are in training like an athlete and we need a training program like an elite sports team.

- *Journal or share what to all elite athletes do to achieve their goals?*
- *Now take those practices and how do they relate to following Jesus? What’s missing for you? How can you supplement your training to live this life after Jesus worthy of the calling you have received?*

Best Way to Celebrate: “The best way to celebrate the fourth of July is not with hot dogs and parades but with training in growing to be better examples of Jesus Christ to and for each other and for our world. The best way to pledge allegiance to the flag is to care deeply about the condition of other colonists in our community. The best way to show gratitude for the sacrifices of intelligence officers, veterans, police, and firefighters is to provide shelter in the storm for those trapped in the rubble of life and needing hope, health, and healing.”

- *In hearing this call from Dr. Shiell what stirs in you? What are you thinking or feeling?*
- *Journal or share 2 practical ways for how you can...*
 - train to become more like Jesus.
 - live caring for other colonists in our community,
 - provide shelter in the storm for those in trouble,

Practice of the Week: Taking those practices that all elite athletes engage in continue to reflect on how intentional you are training to be a follower of Jesus. Come up with a plan for the rest of the summer and into the fall of how you will take steps to train more effectively. If you need help or recourses we are here to help you! Email us at: ehaskins@ChristChurch.us.

Family Formation: As a family take about what a good citizen is and then as age appropriate share how does that relate to living as a follower of Jesus and a citizen of heaven. Pray for our country and world as a family.

Additional Resources: Mark your calendars now to be part of a two week training experience lead by Dr. Eric Haskins, September 26 and October 3 called, *Soul Training 101*. Registration and more details will be coming by the beginning of August.