

Home Group Helps

Philippians 3:12-21

Joy for the Journey: Pressing On

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 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. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained. ¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

I. An Ambition (v.12-14) – ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 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.

II. An Attitude (v.15-16) – ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

III. After the Example of Paul (v.17) – ¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

IV. Avoiding the Ungodly (v.18-19) – ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

V. Awaiting Christ's Return (v.20-21) – ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

1. Launching Question(s):

- What is an experience that you have had when you “pressed on” through difficulty and achieved your goal?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul's words in this passage are meant to motivate the Philippians (and us) in our pursuit of godliness. What are some ways that this passage accomplishes the goal of motivating us?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul states in vs. 10-11, “that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” And then continues in vs. 12, “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own.”
- What is implied by the statement, “I press on?”
- What does “pressing on” look like in the everyday Christian experience?
- He goes on to say, “one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.”
- What does Paul mean by “forgetting what lies behind?”
- Why is it important to “forget what lies behind?”
- How does “forgetting what lies behind” aid you in “straining forward to what lies ahead?”
- The “one thing” Paul does is, “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
- Why should this be your “one thing,” your all-consuming ambition in life?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Explain what happened in the race pictured below and how it reflects on this passage:



5. Application Question(s):

- What is one thing that you will forget about your past that will aid you in pressing on?