

Phil 3:12-21 Pressing On in God

Review -- All My Gain I Count As Loss → to Know him, (resurrection, suffering and death)

- Phil 3:8 Indeed, I **count everything as loss** because of **the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and **count** them as rubbish, **in order that I may gain Christ**

Three Things That Keep Me from Pressing On

“Nobody’s Perfect” Syndrome → God has a purpose for my life, regardless of where I am today

- **Define Perfection** - “to mend the net”...to be restored in order to function as God intended you to
- 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**. [KJV to apprehend why he apprehended me]
- It’s OK **you’ve not arrived (complete, mature, perfect for intended purpose)- but don’t stay there**
- **BUT I press on** “to pursue, chase, persecute.” in zeal persecuted church, now Pressing On in Jesus
- **HOW** recognize Jesus has a purpose for your life...I want to apprehend **why he apprehended me**

“I am Defined By My Past” - What is ahead is far better than what I am leaving behind, good or bad

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.

- Current condition → not there yet...**BUT ONE THING I DO** → forget and **PRESS (But & Press 2x)**
- **ONE THING** → **FORGET** what lies behind and **STRAIN** forward to what lies ahead
 - Peter called to “follow me” - leave the past behind (3x he betrayed Jesus)
 - Paul chiefest of sinners, or even glorying in past achievements - both are detrimental
- He is taking us somewhere from where we are → The prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus

See Christianity as an event, not a journey - partnership with God → God shows if we think otherwise

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.

- He calls us to pursue the one thing...the upward call of God in Christ...the mature think this way
- But hold true to what you have attained → Christian life is incremental
- God is at work in you to will and do his good pleasure, he began and will complete that work

Two exhortations that help us to Press On

Living a Life Worth Imitating - if you follow my example will you be your best in the LORD? A weight

- 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**.

Consider our current citizenship in heaven - but know there is an ultimate perfection body, soul, spirit

- 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.

Summary → what holds you back from **PRESSING ON** (Lackadaisical because not perfect? My past? Unwillingness to think differently about my life...to be mature, to think God’s way.?)