

Pressing on Toward the Goal – Phil 3:8-21

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- I. Introduction
 - a. Paul's Ultimate Goal – v. 8-11
 - i. To gain Jesus Christ
 - ii. To know him
 1. power of his resurrection
 2. share in his sufferings
 3. like him in his death
 4. attain the resurrection
 - b. This goal was worth the loss of all things
 - i. They were nothing in comparison
 - ii. This is Paul's greatest goal
- II. Key Thought – Paul shares with the Philippians his great goal of gaining Christ, and what it would take to accomplish it
- III. An Incomplete Goal - v. 12-14
 - a. Not already perfect
 - i. Can't consider it already attained
 - ii. It lies ahead
 - b. So,
 - i. Press on
 - ii. Forget what lies behind
 1. To forget or not to forget
 - a. Past sins – could hinder (Heb. 12:1) or help (2 Pet. 1)
 - b. Past confidences – could hinder or help (here in Phil. 3)
 - c. Past accomplishments for the Lord – could hinder or help (Rom. 15,16; Heb. 10)
 2. In general
 - a. Remember what motivates you to press on
 - b. Forget that which hinders you from pressing on
 - iii. Straining forward
 1. The athlete expending all his energy and straining every muscle to win the race
 - iv. Press on
 1. Aim – toward the goal
 2. End – the prize of the upward call
 - v. God wants us to win
 1. He has called us himself
 - a. To himself
 - b. Through Christ
 - c. Come unto me

- IV. A Shared goal – v. 15-17
 - a. Others should feel and act the same way
 - b. Hold true
 - c. Imitate Paul and other faithful examples
- V. A Opposed Goal – v. 18-19
 - a. Enemies of Christ
 - b. They have
 - i. An end – destruction
 - 1. They are straining toward what lies ahead
 - 2. God’s judgment
 - ii. A god – their belly
 - iii. Glory – in their own shame
 - iv. A mindset – this world
 - c. Thinking about it is a cause of sorrow and grief
 - i. Esp. when Christians act that way
 - ii. Loved ones
- VI. A Heavenly Goal – v. 20-21
 - a. In contrast to those who set their mind on earthly thing
 - i. We set our minds on heaven
 - ii. Our citizenship is there, not here
 - b. From heaven
 - i. Christ will come
 - ii. Transform us
 - iii. Give us glorious heavenly bodies
 - c. His power
 - i. Will subdue all things
 - ii. We will submit to him
 - 1. Voluntarily now
 - 2. Or involuntarily later
- VII. Conclusion
 - a. Is Paul’s greatest goal your greatest goal
 - b. Is there anything more valuable to you than to gain Christ and to be found in Him?
 - c. Are you forgetting what is behind that might hold you back?
 - d. Are you straining forward to what lies ahead?
 - e. Are you setting your mind on heaven and eagerly waiting the return of Jesus Christ?
 - f. Are you living for him each day so you can live with him forever when he comes for his own?
 - g. INVITATION