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