

# 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