

Press On  
Philippians 3:12-16

- *“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect.”*
  - While we have been given positional perfection in Christ, no Christian will obtain practical perfection in this life (Romans 7:15-8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 1:8-10). We know from God’s Word that in Christ we have been justified (Romans 3:21-26), are being sanctified (1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 7:1), and will be glorified (Philippians 3:20-21).
- *“I press on to make it my own.”*
  - To “press on” is to run swiftly to reach a goal (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; 2 Timothy 4:7-8). Lack of perfection and the stain of sin should never lead the Christian to apathy or laziness (Romans 6:1-4). We must work to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). God had a purpose for Paul, and Paul desired to fully realize that purpose in his life (Acts 9:15-16).
- *“Because Christ Jesus has made me his own.”*
  - Jesus Christ must be the motivation for all we do. He must be our driving force if we are to live and work for the glory of God (Ephesians 2:4-10). What is the goal of God saving us? Christlikeness in us and in others (Romans 8:29).
- *“One thing I do.”*

*“It is better to say, ‘This one thing I do’, than to say, ‘These forty things I dabble with.’” - D.L. Moody*

  - We have been given many commands in the Word of God on what to pursue and what to abstain from (Romans 12; Galatians 5; Ephesians 4-6; Colossians 3-4). All these can be simplified to one statement: “Live as Christ to the glory of God.” What does this look like?
  - *“Forgetting what lies behind”* : Sins and achievements must be forgotten. Both of these can lead us to neglect the present. Every new moment given can be used to bear fruit and live for God’s glory (1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 9:62) What I did yesterday, sin or success, does not determine how I live today (Lamentations 3:22-23).
  - *“Straining forward to what lies ahead”* : This is to stretch to the limit to reach the finish line. Zeal, work, and diligence is what we are called to in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 7:29-31; 10:31; 15:58; Colossians 1:29; 3:1-4; Hebrews 12:1-2).
- *“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*
  - Jesus Christ is not only the motivation for our pursuit of holiness, but He Himself is also our prize (John 3:16; Romans 5:11; 8:29-30; Philippians 3:20). Not only that, but we will also be rewarded for the work we have done to the glory of His Name (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 4:5; Ephesians 2:10). The “upward call” is when we are received by God into His glory in heaven, either by death or by the glorious return of Christ (2 Timothy 4:8).
- *“Let those of us who are mature think in this way.”*
  - Paul is encouraging those who have been given, not practical perfection, but growth in grace to continue being renewed and “running the race” set before them (Romans 12:1-2; 15:1-7; Galatians 6:1-5). As we grow in knowledge and practice, as we become “mature” spiritually, our minds will be set on Christ in more and more ways (Psalm 139:23-24).

(continued →)

**Worship:** 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) (By: Matt Redman)

Father You Are All We Need (By: Citizens & Saints)      How Great Thou Art (Various Artists)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;  
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- *“If in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.”*
    - Those who are not yet “mature” are also encouraged. If we are in Christ Jesus God will reveal the truth or even discipline in order for us to recognize the necessity of this pursuit (1 Corinthians 2:10; Ephesians 3:1-6; Hebrews 12:5-11; 2 Peter 1:3-4).
  - *“Only let us hold true to what we have attained.”*
    - Continue to live by the standard of God’s Word and by the gift of salvation. Walk in a manner worthy of the calling of God in Christ Jesus (Psalm 1:1-3; Galatians 3:1-6; 5:16, 25; Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27-30; Colossians 1:10; 2:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12; Philippians 1:6).
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**Announcements:**

- BAPTISMS: Our next Baptism Service will be Sunday, January 30th! If you are interested in being baptized or have any questions about baptism, please talk to Pastor Jeremey, Pastor Joel, or one of the Elders.
- DONATIONS: Throughout the month of January we will be collecting donations for Heartbeats. They are in need of the following items: baby wash, baby shampoo, diaper rash cream, new sippy cups, 0-3 months clothing for boys and girls, and 2T clothing for boys and girls. Please put your donations in the tote by the back table.
- FELLOWSHIP DINNER: We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay and join us for dinner and fellowship!