

Pressing On

Philippians 3:12-16

Big Idea: Victory through Jesus isn't about arriving—it's about pressing forward. Paul hadn't attained perfection, but he pressed on with one goal: knowing Christ completely. Not just His resurrection power, but His suffering too. Our confidence isn't in ourselves—it's in His blood alone.

Key Takeaways:

1. We Still Have Growing to Do - Paul recognized he hadn't "arrived" yet; he was still in the process of sanctification (becoming more like Christ).
2. Jesus Has Claimed Us as His Own - We press on because Christ has first possessed us and made us His own.
3. One Thing: Know Christ - Like David and Mary, we should be single-minded in pursuing an intimate relationship with Jesus.
4. Forget What's Behind, Strain Forward - Don't get stuck in past successes or failures; keep your eyes on Jesus.
5. Our Identity in Christ - We live out of our imputed perfection in Christ, not our own efforts.

Scriptures:

- ☐ Psalm 27:4
- ☐ Luke 10:42
- ☐ Ephesians 6
- ☐ Matthew 6:21
- ☐ Matthew 13:44
- ☐ Ephesians 4:11-16
- ☐ Romans 8:29

Opening Question:

What's something you were really motivated to pursue or achieve in the past? What kept you going even when it got difficult?

Discussion Questions:

Read Philippians 3:12-16 together. What stands out to you most from this passage? Why?

Pastor Tim asked: "Do you still have some growing to do?" In what areas of your spiritual life do you sense God calling you to grow right now?

The sermon emphasized that we cannot grow in our own strength but must rely on the Holy Spirit. Share a time when you tried to do something in your own strength versus relying on God's power. What was the difference?

What "lies behind" do you struggle to forget? Is it past successes you're clinging to, or past failures that haunt you? How does this passage encourage you to move forward?

Pastor Tim said, "What you invest your time and resources in tells you a lot about who you are." If someone looked at your calendar and bank statement, what would they say you treasure most? Is Jesus your ultimate treasure?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What does it mean to "grow up" spiritually? What are some characteristics of spiritual maturity you've seen in others that you want to develop in your own life?

The sermon mentioned finding your identity in Christ (being loved, forgiven, accepted). Which of these truths do you struggle to believe about yourself? How might meditating on Scripture about your identity in Christ change your behavior?

Pastor Tim emphasized that mature people "build up" rather than "tear down." Who in your life needs encouragement this week? How can you specifically build them up?

Practical Applications:

1. Spend 15 minutes each morning asking the Holy Spirit to help you become more like Christ.
2. Write down three truths about your identity in Christ and read them daily.
3. This week, practice letting go of [specific regret/success] and focus on what God is calling you to today.

Closing Thought/Prayer:

Reflect on what it means to rely on the Holy Spirit as you press on towards knowing Christ more deeply and becoming more like Him each day.
