

RE-VIEW

Weekly Devotionals

"PRESS ON TOGETHER"

Philippians 3:12-21

Situation

Life in Christ often feels like a race, and every runner eventually meets a wall. There are moments when the body weakens, the heart grows tired, and the finish line seems far off, yet those moments do not mean the race is over. Paul wrote Philippians from imprisonment, chained and uncertain, but still focused, still rejoicing, and still pressing on.

That matters because the church in Philippi was facing more than one danger. On one side were legalists who wanted to add human effort to grace; on the other side were people living as though grace removed every moral obligation. Paul's answer is not fear or compromise, but joyful perseverance grounded in heaven.

Scripture

ReVisit - **Philippians 3:12-21 (NLT):**

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. **13** No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

15 Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you.

16 But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

17 Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. **18** For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. **19** They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. **20** But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. **21** He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

And Jesus gives us the daily posture that makes this possible:

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

Supporting Scriptures for further reading:

- **Philippians 1:1**
- **Philippians 3:12-14**
- **Philippians 4:6**
- **John 15:10-12**
- **Acts 9:15-16**
- **Romans 12:1-2**
- **Colossians 3:1-4**
- **Hebrews 12:1-3**

Truth

The main truth is this: **rejoicing in Christ helps us press on faithfully as citizens of heaven.** Paul is not pretending that the race is easy; he is saying that the finish line is real, Christ is worth it, and our present life must be shaped by that future hope.

He rejects two distortions. Legalism says, "I can earn righteousness by performance," while cheap grace says, "Grace means I owe God no moral obedience." Paul refuses both, because both keep the believer focused on the wrong center.

The gospel gives us freedom, but it is holy freedom.

Paul's language about forgetting the past and pressing on is not about amnesia; it is about refusing to live off yesterday's victories or yesterday's failures. He is still running, still serving, still building toward the task Christ entrusted to him. And his confidence rests in the fact that God will complete what he started.

Application

For us, pressing on begins with abiding in Christ. That means daily listening to God through Scripture, daily speaking to God in prayer, and daily obeying what He shows us to do. Those habits do not save us, but they keep us connected to the source of spiritual life.

This also means our lives should look different from the world around us. Heaven's citizens do not live for appetite, image, or immediate comfort. We live with open hands, a clear conscience, and a steady hope in the return of Christ. **Our choices, our words, our relationships, and our use of time should all reflect that we belong to another Kingdom.**

Paul's call to imitate him is really a call to shared discipleship. He was not telling the church to become little copies of Paul as a personality; he was calling them to follow a pattern of Christ-shaped endurance together. So pressing on is not just individual grit, but a community learning to rejoice, endure, and obey side by side.

Three habits of holiness capture this well:

1. Listen to God daily through hearing, reading, studying, and meditating on the Word.
2. Talk to God daily in honest prayer and thanksgiving.
3. Obey God daily by loving others, serving sacrificially, and choosing holiness over comfort.

Prayer

Father, thank you that in Christ we are already forgiven, already accepted, and already made citizens of Heaven. Teach us to live today in light of that future, and keep us from being ruled by fear, pride, appetite, or distraction.

Help us abide in Christ every day. Open our ears to your Word, steady our hearts in prayer, and strengthen our wills to obey you in love. Make our church a people who press on together, who rejoice in the Lord, and who finish the race with faithfulness.

When we grow tired, remind us that Jesus is not only the author of our faith but the one who will bring it to completion. We trust him for the journey, the finish, and the prize.

In Jesus' name, amen.

-Amen