

It's Time to Move Forward

Read: Philippians 3:12-21

Main Idea: We are called to leave behind our past struggles and enter into a renewed commitment to pursue the goal we have in Christ, pressing forward with hope and determination.

Key Verses: “Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (3:13-14)

Key Principles:

- Humility in the Christian life means acknowledging that we cannot attain perfection in this life.
- Passionate pursuit of Christ involves single-minded focus, forgetting past achievements or failures to strain forward like an athlete toward a goal.
- Faithfulness requires imitating mature believers who embody cross-centered living, while rejecting those whose mindset leads to destruction and gospel opposition.
- Empowerment comes from our heavenly citizenship, where Christ’s future return will glorify our bodies, providing hope that fuels present endurance amid opposition.
- Avoiding perfectionism guards against misunderstanding justification, ensuring growth is rooted in Christ’s prior hold on us rather than self-attained completeness.
- Living as citizens of heaven reorients priorities away from the world, and aligns daily choices with the ultimate prize of resurrection and eternal fellowship with Christ.

Discussion:

1. How does Paul’s admission of not yet being perfect challenge our views of spiritual maturity? Share when recognizing your imperfections drew you closer to Christ.
2. In what ways can past successes or failures hinder our forward progress in faith, and how does Paul’s athletic imagery help us refocus on Christ’s ultimate goal?
3. What challenges arise when trying to imitate faithful examples in a world full of distractions, and how can the Holy Spirit empower us to discern true maturity?
4. How does Paul’s warning against “enemies of the cross” apply to avoiding worldly mindsets today, and what practical steps can we take to guard our pursuit of Christ?
5. Why is remembering our heavenly citizenship essential for enduring present struggles, and how does it emphasize Christ’s power over human effort?
6. How does the promise of bodily transformation affirm God’s faithfulness to complete our salvation? Share how this truth motivates you to press on in daily discipleship.

Prayer:

- Pray for humility to acknowledge growth in Christ and openness to His leading.
- Pray:
 - For passion to leave behind distractions and strain toward heavenly goals.
 - We will experience conviction to follow faithful examples and avoid worldly pitfalls.
 - For boldness to live as heavenly citizens, empowered by hope in Christ’s return.

It's Time to Move Forward
Philippians 3:12-21

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| I. | Be <u>humble</u> in your pursuit of Christ. | 3:12-13 |
| 1. | Remember who <u>saved</u> you. | 3:12 |
| 2. | Remember where you are <u>going</u> . | 3:13 |
| II. | Be <u>passionate</u> in your pursuit of Christ. | 3:13-14 |
| 1. | Stay <u>focused</u> on what's <u>ahead</u> . | 3:13 |
| 2. | Press on <u>towards</u> your <u>goal</u> . | 3:14 |
| III. | Be <u>faithful</u> in your pursuit of Christ. | 3:15-19 |
| 1. | <u>Follow</u> faithful <u>examples</u> . | 3:15-17 |
| 2. | <u>Avoid</u> worldly <u>pretenders</u> . | 3:18-19 |
| IV. | Be <u>empowered</u> in your pursuit of Christ. | 3:20-21 |
| 1. | Remember your <u>Savior</u> . | 3:20 |
| 2. | Remember your <u>reward</u> . | 3:21 |

NEXT WEEK:
Trusting in God's Plan
2 Samuel 7