

Sermon Quotes
November 2nd, 2008
Philippians 3:12-16 Pressing On Towards the Prize

Phi 3:12-16

(12) Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

(13) 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,

(14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

(15) Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

(16) Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Another translation of vs.12:

*“...I press on, that I may lay hold of **that** for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”*

“Do you see the word ‘that’ in Vs. 12? He is speaking of God’s purposes. Paul wanted to lay hold of that for which Christ had laid hold of him. Do you know there is a that for each one of us? Do you know the that for which Christ has laid hold of you?”

—Terry Virgo

1 Cor 9:24-25 (NIV) “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”

This side of Heaven, God has reserved the deepest peace and the greatest joys for those who pursue His Son with their whole heart.

Sustained Motivation for the Race:

1. Forgetting what lies behind.
2. Straining forward to what lies ahead.

“They see in themselves a great deal that is good, very much that is commendable, and a large amount of excellence, which they can hold up for the admiration of others. They have reached the ‘higher life,’ and are wonderfully fond of telling us so... Though Paul felt compelled to say, ‘In me, that is, in my flesh, there dwells no good thing,’ their flesh appears to be of a better quality: whereas he had spiritual conflicts...these superior persons have already trodden Satan under their feet...Now, brothers, whenever we meet with persons who can congratulate themselves upon their personal character, or whenever we get into this state ourselves, there is an ill savor about the whole concern...When I hear a man crow about himself, I think of Peter’s declaration, ‘Though all men should deny you, yet I will not.’ I hear another cock crow when we speak this way.”

—Charles Spurgeon

1 John 1:9 ESV “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive us** our sins and to cleanse us **from all unrighteousness.**”

Psalms 103:2, 10-12 ESV “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity...He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, **so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**”

Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; **they are new every morning**; great is your faithfulness.”

“The picture is of coming down the home stretch, leaning forward, extending oneself to break the tape. It is generally hazardous to press metaphors, and this one can be pressed in all kinds of wrong directions. Paul's purpose—both his use of this metaphor and its intent—is singular; perfection is not in view, but perseverance. As Paul runs toward the Christ who has already taken hold of him, he does so in the same focused, full-tilt way a runner does who is intent on winning.”

—Gordon Fee

“God Himself pursues a love relationship with you. He is the One who takes the initiative to bring you into this kind of relationship. He created you for a love relationship with Himself. That is the very purpose of your life. This love relationship can and should be real and personal to you...What is the one thing God wants from you? He wants you to love Him with all your being. That is the greatest commandment. Your experiencing God depends on you having this relationship of love. A love relationship with God is more important than any other single factor in your life.”

—Henry Blackaby