

Moving Forward

Text: Philippians 3:10-20

v10) “I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (v11) and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. (v12) Not that I already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. (v13) Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it, but one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, (v14) I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Paul was under house arrest in Rome when he wrote this letter to the church in Philippi. Philippi was a prosperous Roman colony, in the north-eastern modern-day Greece.

From this portion of his letter, there are at least 4 things that we can learn and apply in our lives.

1. “I am on my way.” (v10-11) – “I may be under house arrest as I write this letter to you but, being in chains for the gospel does not immobilize me. I am on my way and well ahead of my game. My goal is still to know Christ and to be more like Him in His sufferings, His death, and His resurrection.”

“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21

Matt 16:25 – “For whoever wishes to save his life (in this world) will (eventually) lose it (through death), but whoever loses his life (in this world) for My sake will find it (that is, life with Me for all eternity.) (26) For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world (wealth, fame, success), but forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Shall we make heaven our ultimate vision in life?

2. “I am on my way, and I am not there yet.” (v12) ‘I am still a work in progress in the hands of God!’

I have not:

- a) Already obtained all of this (referring to attaining the full knowledge of Jesus)-

- b) Arrived at my goal
- c) Taken hold of it –

3. I am on my way and I am determined to get there. There is one thing I do:

- a) v13 – forgetting those things behind

- b) v13 – look ahead/ forward

Looking back is sure to end in going back. Don’t look behind as you may end up staying.

Luke 9:62 “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the service in the kingdom of God.”

- c) V14 – Press on: keep going/stay determined

1 Cor 9:24 “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. (25) 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.”

V16) As followers of Christ, we are responsible to live out or put into practice what we have learned.– no regressing but progressing!_Be willing and quick to make adjustments; keep going. We must run as hard as we can to cross the finish line.

4. I am on my way, and I am not alone. (v17-18)

v17 – Keep good company. “Keep your eyes on those who live as we do”

Collaborate with maturing believers like you. Make new friends and renew your ties with godly men and women.

Heb. 12:1 “Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, (v2) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. (v3) Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

v18-19 - Stay away from the enemies of the cross.