

#689 One Thing – Press On (Philippians 3:4b-14)

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have 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. ¹³Brothers 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, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. Regarding this sermon, is there any truth that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?
2. What is the best resolution you have ever made? Explain.
3. As you think of your past, what predominantly comes to mind? Are there things that you are holding onto that should really be forgotten? Such as...?
4. The nearer you draw to death; how do you suppose your feelings about all your achievements will begin to feel?
5. Share an aspect of your life that God has allowed to be broken. What good did this accomplish in your life?
6. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads for you to enter 2021 with fresh conviction and zeal for the Lord.

Supporting Scriptures

Psalm 27:4 ONE THING I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

John 9:25 He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. ONE THING I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

Hosea 6:3 Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us PRESS ON to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

Luke 13:33 In any case, I must PRESS ON today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!