

# **Press On**

**10-31-21**

Philippians 3:14 (ESV)

**“I press on”** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**The last three weeks we have looked some very insightful and challenging Christian truths that are meant for the mature in Christ. In summary they were: Christ Behaving revealing Christ in us and acting out through us; Christ’s Mind encouraging us to have the mind of Christ; Our Citizenship in heaven where these behaviors identify us. If you are like me, you might be discouraged because with Jesus as our standard we fall short of our calling. Therefore, God at this point encourages us not to be discouraged but to Press On toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Important: Don’t be discouraged, “Press On!” However, to be able to “Press On” and see the full power of God at work in our lives it is necessary for our commitment. **Like the Apostle Paul we are not to be lukewarm, we are to be on fire.****

Philippians 3:7–9 (ESV) **No O/H**

<sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as **rubbish**, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

**Commitment:** All things are counted as loss, only Christ matters! Paul as an example of commitment looks at his worldly accomplishments as rubbish. Although rubbish is descriptive, the literal word is even more descriptive, dung. **In general, what this life has to offer in comparison to Christ is described as dung.** Paul counted all his righteousness as dung so that he may gain the righteousness from God that comes through faith in Christ. The reason Paul would make such commitment, and the reason we are encouraged to make such an extreme commitment is stated in the next verse.

Philippians 3:10 (ESV)

That I may know HIM and the power of HIS resurrection!

**Paul's total commitment was to "know" Christ and the "power" of HIS resurrection. This represents the active presence and glorious power of God. The whole verse!**

Philippians 3:10 (ESV)

That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, **and** may share (fellowship of) his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

To share Christ's sufferings means we have such a *complete identification with him* that it can only be explained as a death to our former life. **The theological union with Christ must be experientially demonstrated by commitment.** This process of "pressing on" is intended to bring the believer into *ever-increasing "experiential" conformity* to Christ.

Therefore, we will learn to *exhibit a separation from our old life and a continual walking in the power of our new life in Christ. **This is knowing Christ and the power of HIS resurrection now while in the body.***

Philippians 3:11 (The Amplified Bible)

That by any means possible I may attain the (power of the) resurrection from the dead (EVEN WHILE IN THE BODY).

**With such a glorious goal don't be discouraged but continue to "Press On" and "continue to grow" in our Christian life.**

Philippians 3:12 (ESV)

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.

**Because Christ has already made us HIS own through the cross, we are encouraged to "press on" to experience Christ and the power of HIS resurrection.**

Philippians 3:13-14 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> I "**press on**" toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

***Key to understanding: The reality of our resurrection was completed at the cross. For the "mature" experiencing the "power of the resurrection" now is an ongoing process.***

Now as we struggle to grasp the depth of this truth, we have powerful encouragement from God to press on.

Philippians 3:15–16 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are “mature” think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

<sup>16</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

**The mature think this way.** Anything we don’t understand, we ask God, and HE will reveal the truth to us. However, as God is teaching us, we must stand strong on what we already know. “We Press On!”

As we Press On, we will come to “experientially” know Christ fully understand HIS resurrection power even now in our earthly bodies.

Paul “experientially” knew Christ and HIS power.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

**Hold to on to what you have and Press On!**

**Prophetic Team**