

## Press In and Press On

### Philippians 3:12-16

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching 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. <sup>15</sup> Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; <sup>16</sup> however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

### Observations

1. The word “It” is referring to attaining Christ and the resurrection from the dead.
  - Perfection is not attainable on this side of glory.
2. The word “Press” means to move rapidly and decisively towards an object.
  - Press was used when Paul referred to his persecution of the church.
3. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect.
  - Hebrews 6:1, “Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity.”

### Interpretation

1. Paul approached his faith with **Laser-like** focus.
  - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. <sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; <sup>27</sup> but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.
  - The life of every Christian must be approached with intentionality.

2. Christians must be committed to **focusing** Christ.
  - Philippians 3:10, “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,”
  - The Scriptures and the power of the Holy Spirit will confirm this truth over time.
3. There is no **stopping** point on this side of **eternity**.
  - The life of a Christian is a constant fight and struggle.

### Application

### Key Truth: Press in and Press On!

Our hope and encouragement are only found in Christ and the blessings that are promised.

We have done such a disservice to the cause of Christ by relegating Christianity to a momentary confession of faith.