

Let's Press On  
Philippians 3:7-21  
Sunday, May 19, 2019 am

The letter to the church at Philippi is Paul's testimony to the church there – it gives insight into Paul's personal life – Paul uses a personal pronoun over 100 times in this short Epistle – he is in the worst physical condition but is in the best spiritual condition – this letter was written from a Roman jail following the perilous voyage mentioned in Acts 27 – still Paul is confident, positive and committed to Jesus.

We can learn some things from Paul who demonstrated such a great attitude toward life regardless of his circumstances – Paul tells us how to live confidently in the face of the worst of storms – he tells us how to keep our lives fresh and meaningful – many people do not enjoy life because they have “stale” commitments – when a person feels that he or she has arrived, that person is in danger of becoming stale.

Read the scripture – Philippians 3:7-21

I. Listen to Paul's Testimony of Commitment –  
Philippians 3:12-14

a. Remember Paul's spiritual journey

- i. He was converted on the road to Damascus in Acts chapter 9
- ii. He was baptized and filled with the Spirit at Ananias's house in Acts 9:17
- iii. He was obedient to the call of God – Acts 26:19

- iv. He poured himself into the work of God
  - v. Still he confesses, "I have not arrived" –  
Philippians 3:12
- b. To have "arrived" means we have gone over the crest of the hill.
- i. We are either going up – have reached the top – or are going down.
  - ii. This is why it is so important that we understand "the need to strive for more of Jesus" attitude
  - iii. To maintain this commitment does not detract from our confidence
- c. This attitude does not reflect on being "saved by grace"
- i. We are saved by grace and we grow spiritually by works
  - ii. Those who do not grow spiritually begin to die spiritually

## **II. Look at the Practical Considerations of this**

### **Commitment – Philippians 3:13-14**

- a. We must forget what is behind – Philippians 3:13
- i. We can't live in the past
    - 1. Don't say – that's not how we've always done it
    - 2. Go ahead and do it that way but it won't work
    - 3. Just because it's always been done that way doesn't mean it won't work another way
- b. Paul has taken note of his journey to this point –  
Philippians 3:4-7

- i. He refuses to live in the past – let's not live in the past – let's not rest on what we've done but on what God's done and what He's going to do from here on – Proverbs 29:18
  - ii. Paul refuses to live in the past
  - iii. We do well to reflect on our journey – but we must always realize that there is a greater journey ahead of us.
- c. We must reach forward – Philippians 3:13-14
- i. This expression clearly presents the picture of one who is committed to winning – running toward greater things and not resting on what's been done
  - ii. It is not enough just to start or run a race – we must reach the finish line triumphantly.

What would happen if every believer in this congregation decided to press on in his or her relationship with Jesus – Paul found the life of inner satisfaction that we all seek – this passage tells us how he achieved that satisfaction – join me in following Paul's example as expressed in Philippians 3:15-17.