



I Am Pressing on the Upward Way

Philippians 3:11 - 4:1

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Previous Sermon Preached on Easter

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Phil 3:1-11: That I May Know Him and the Power of His Resurrection

- * Negatively, Paul is dealing with the Judaizers.
- * Positively, he is making a number of contrasts
 - the old way OR the new way
 - salvation through the law OR salvation through faith in Christ
 - confidence in the flesh OR confidence in Christ (vv.8-9)
- * This contrast also undergirds the way we live and do God's work: dependence on human resources and the flesh OR on God's power.
- * Climax: 3:10 & 11

3:12-16 (ESV); Pressing On



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. 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, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.



3:12-16; Pressing On

- * Where are those who are pressing on/forward in their Christian life?
- * What greater heights are we to strive for?
 - **Personal:**
Knowing the Bible, prayer, holiness and character, etc.
 - **Church: Salt and light**
Does the world around us see this in us & our church?
 - **Evangelism and mission**
Has SSMC stagnated? How can we move forward again?



3:17-19 (ESV)

Not living as enemies of the Cross

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.



3:17-19

Not living as enemies of the Cross

*** Is there any sense in which we are living as enemies of the cross?**

Cf. Trump? Prosperity Gospel?

Megachurch scandals?

Liberal theology and ethics in the church?

*** Are we living in a way that glorifies our self-indulgent egotism rather than Christ?**

3:20 – 4:1 (ESV)

Setting our eyes on heaven

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.



Living with Vision and Purpose:

“A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.



The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither."

(C S Lewis. Mere Christianity, 1952:116)



Setting our eyes on heaven

- * **Living with Vision and Purpose**
- * **Living with Hope**
- * **“Some Christians are too heavenly minded to be of no earthly use!”
TRUE? What do you think?**