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★ **PRESSING ON TOWARD HEAVEN OR EARTH?** ★

Philippians 3:17-21

PHILIPPIANS 3:12 (ESV)

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own,

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14 (ESV)

13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own.
But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14 (ESV)

and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

ESV STUDY BIBLE

“The prize is the fullness of blessings
and rewards in the age to come,

ESV STUDY BIBLE

Most importantly being in perfect fellowship with Christ forever.”

MATTHEW 5:48 (NIV)

Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect.

PRESS ON = DIŌKŌ

to run swiftly in order to catch
a person or thing, to run after

**Congratulating ourselves leads to complacency.
Confessing our shortcomings leads to a commitment to press on.**

PHILIPPIANS 3:17 (ESV)

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

PHILIPPIANS 3:17 (ESV)

keep your eyes on those who walk
according to the example you have in us.

KEEP YOUR EYES = SKOPEO

Observe, focus in on, contemplate

EXAMPLE = TYPOS

Model, pattern

1

Press on toward **the goal by imitating faithful examples in their walk with Christ.**

GRANT OSBORN

“The Christian life is a relay race in which we pass the baton to the next generation of imitators/teachers.”

WHO'S EXAMPLE ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

Marriage - Singleness - Raising your kids
Pouring into your grandkids - In dealing with death

WHO'S EXAMPLE ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

In developing a heart for the nations - Giving and generosity
Serving in the church - In how you interact with unbelievers

WHO'S EXAMPLE ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

Praying/prioritizing prayer
Reading/studying the Bible

GEORGE MULLER

“Now in brotherly love and affection I would give a few hints to my younger fellow-believers as to the way in which to keep up

GEORGE MULLER

spiritual enjoyment. It is absolutely needful in order that happiness in the Lord may continue, that the Scriptures be regularly read.

GEORGE MULLER

These are God's appointed means for the nourishment of the inner man... Consider it, and ponder over it...

GEORGE MULLER

Especially we should read regularly through the Scriptures, consecutively, and not pick out here and there a chapter.

GEORGE MULLER

If we do, we remain spiritual dwarfs. I tell you so affectionately. For the first four years after my conversion I made no progress,

GEORGE MULLER

because I neglected the Bible. But when I regularly read on through the whole with reference to my own heart and soul,

GEORGE MULLER

I directly made progress. Then my peace and joy continued more and more. Now I have been doing this for 47 years.

GEORGE MULLER

I have read through the whole Bible about 100 times
and I always find it fresh when I begin again.

GEORGE MULLER

Thus my peace and joy have increased more and more.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:18-19 (ESV)

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:18-19 (ESV)

19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

2

Don't press on toward **imitating those who walk as enemies of the Cross.**

Their end is their destruction.

Their god is their belly.

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5 (ESV)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud,

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5 (ESV)

arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,
³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal,

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5 (ESV)

not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5 (ESV)

5 having the appearance of godliness,
but denying its power. Avoid such people.

They glory in their shame.

Their minds set on earthly things.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Am I imitating those who walk worthy of the Cross
or am I imitating those who are enemies of the Cross?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

In what areas of my life could I look like an enemy of the Cross where I am professing to know God but living in opposition to Him?

GRANT OSBORN

“Those who claim to know, but fail to live accordingly are ‘enemies of the cross.’”

PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21 (ESV)

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21 (ESV)

who will transform our lowly body
to be like his glorious body,

PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21 (ESV)

by the power that enables him
even to subject all things to himself.

CITIZENS = POLITEUOMAI

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PHILIPPIANS 1:27

Only let your manner of life be
worthy of the gospel of Christ

CITIZENS = POLITEUOMAI

PHILIPPIANS 1:27 Only BEHAVE AS CITIZENS
worthy of the gospel of Christ

3

Press on toward **walking as citizens of your homeland.**

C.S LEWIS - MERE CHRISTIANITY

“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.

C.S. LEWIS - MERE CHRISTIANITY

It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.”



**What does it look like
for you to press on today?**

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26 (ESV)

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26 (ESV)

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26 (ESV)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26 (ESV)

²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26 (ESV)

25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.”