

# **PRESSING TOWARD THE GOAL FOR THE PRIZE**

**PHILIPPIANS 3:4-15**

4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

- ✓ circumcised the eighth day,
- ✓ of the stock of Israel,
- ✓ of the tribe of Benjamin,
- ✓ a Hebrew of the Hebrews;
- ✓ concerning the law, a Pharisee;
- ✓ concerning zeal, persecuting the church;

Act 9:1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 26: 10 "And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.

✓ concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.



**His imperial majesty, the sultan  
Abdul Hamid, Second Khan,  
Emperor of the Ottomans,  
Sovereign of the Osmans,  
commander of the faithful,  
sultan of sultans, khan of khans,  
successor of the prophet of the  
lord of the universe, protector of  
the holy cities of Mecca, Medina  
and Jerusalem.**

Phil 3:7 But what things were gain to me, these I have **counted** loss for Christ.

Phil 3:8 Yet indeed I also **count** all things  
loss for the excellence of the knowledge  
of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have  
suffered the loss of all things, and **count**  
them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus says the LORD:**

**"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom,  
Let not the mighty man glory in his might,  
Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;  
But let him who glories glory in this,  
That he understands and knows Me,  
That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness,  
judgment, and righteousness in the earth.  
For in these I delight," says the LORD.**

**Phil 3:9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;**

**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,**

**Phil 3:11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

**Phil3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.**

2Co 5:9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

Mtt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1Co 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Col 1:10: that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

**Phil 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

**2 Tim 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

**Phil 3:15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you**

Note Paul's progressive reaching out toward his goal:

- “that I may gain Christ” (v. 8);
- “that I may know Him” (v. 10);
- that “I may attain” (v. 11);
- that “I may lay hold of” (v. 12).

Pressing forward is a mark of the maturing Christian.

**Lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus your  
Lord has laid hold of you!**