

Leader

Phil. 3:10,11

that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; [11] in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Congregation

Phil. 3:12

12] Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Leader

Phil. 3:13,14

^{13]} 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, [^{14]} I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Congregation

Phil. 3:15,16

[15] 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; [16] however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

A dramatic landscape with a bright light breaking through dark, heavy clouds over a body of water. The light creates a strong glow and a lens flare effect across the scene. The water in the foreground is dark with some shimmering highlights from the light.

Becoming a Community of Transformers

Philippians 3:10-16

Pressing On!

Pressing on to Know Christ (3:10)

- Paul the accountant becomes Paul the athlete
- He's counted all loss compared with gaining Christ & being counted righteous in Him
- He sees the prize at the end of the race



Pressing on to Know Christ (3:10)

- He models the goals of the mature Christian runner...
- "That I may know Him! ...
 - The Power of His resurrection
 - To overcome my resistance

Pressing on to Know Christ (3:10,11)

–The fellowship of His suffering

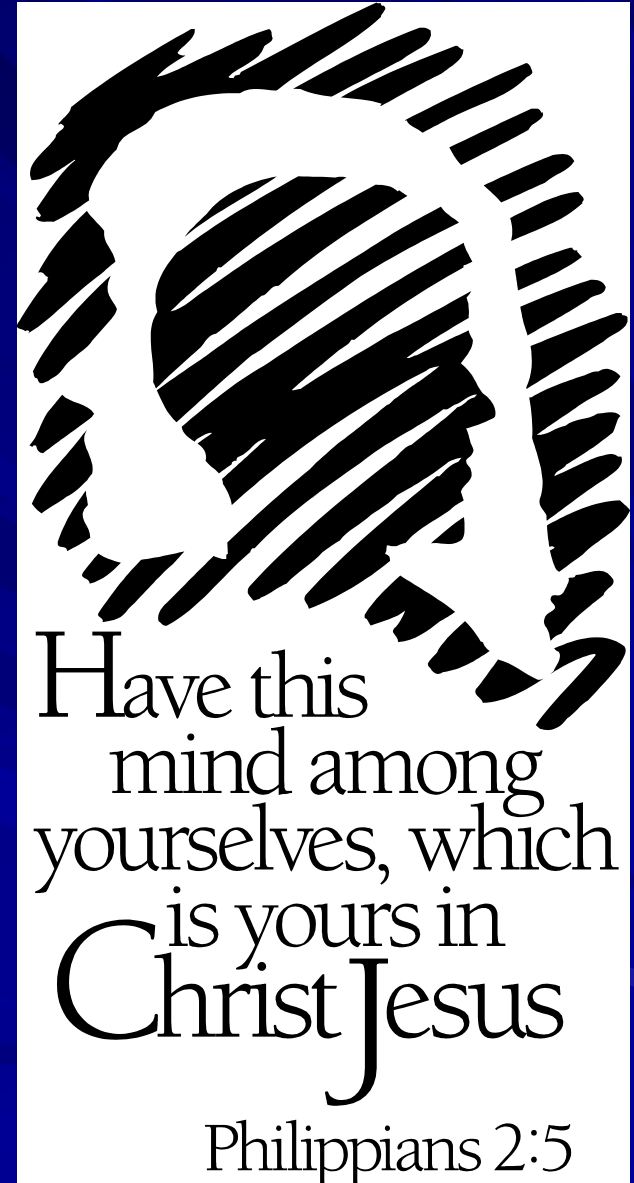
■ *Koinonia*

■ Conformed to his death

■ That I may attain the resurrection of the dead...”

Philippians 3:10-16

- **Theme:** Leaving the past and stretching out to the future, mature Christians press on to know Christ their goal.



Pressing with Humble Confidence (3:12)

- Paul knows he isn't perfect yet.
(*telos*)
- Mature runners
 - realize they haven't arrived yet
 - are motivated by the tension between what we are & should become

Pressing with Humble Confidence (3:13)

- He presses on to lay hold of that for which he was laid hold of by Christ
- **Ask:** “What did Christ have in mind for me when he took hold of me?”
 - Am I reaching out for it?
 - 1Chronicles 4:10 “Prayer of Jabez”

Pressing with a Single Mind (3:13)

- “This one thing I do...”
 - Psalm 27:4; Mark 10:21; Luke 10:42
- **Past:** “Forgetting what’s behind...”
- **Present:** Reaching forward...
- **Future:** Pressing on to the goal...”



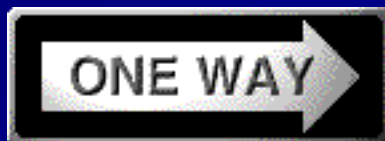
Pressing with a Single Mind (3:13)

- **Past:** “Forgetting what’s behind...”
 - Forgetting isn’t ignoring. He examined it thoroughly (3:5-7)
 - Forgetting is breaking the power of the past
 - It’s refusing to try to improve the past. Introspection paralyzes



Pressing with a Single Mind (3:13)

- **Present:** Reaching forward with muscles stretched, chest heaving, sweat beading, body arched, hand outstretched and eye on the goal while running flat out.
- “Press on” is “*dioko*”; pursue or persecute.
- “Toward the goal” (*skopos*)



Pressing with a Single Mind (3:14)

- **Future:** “For the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”
- Christ will be at the winners bench...
- The prize is Christ Himself and...
 - His “well done...” Luke 19:17
 - The crowns of righteousness and glory (2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Pet. 5:4)



Pressing On with Others (3:15,16)

- Mature (perfect; '*telos*') runners think this way
- If you don't have this attitude God will show you.
- Mature runners hold on to what they have and don't slip back



Applications:

- Let Christ pull your fingers off your prized possessions & gain His.
- Ask: How is what I'm doing helping me reach toward the prize?
 - Am I stunted by the past or pressing on?
 - Does the race and the prize motivate me no matter what I am doing?

