

Pressing, Watching, Belonging
Elder, Scott Larson
Philippians 3:12-21
June 25, 2023

I. Pressing on Toward the Goal (12-16)

Although we may never achieve perfection in this world, it should still be our goal.

II. Watch Out for the Enemies of Christ (17-19)

1. Jesus warned us that many will come as wolves dressed in sheep's clothing.

2. It is not only their teachings that will mislead people, but their lifestyle.

III. Our Citizenship is in Heaven (20-21)

As foreigners in this world, we should not engage in its sinful practices.

Life Group Questions – Pressing, Watching, Belonging
Feel free to write your answers on a separate sheet!

1. Phil. 3:12-16: Paul says I press on to “make it my own.” What does “it” refer to? What is Paul pressing on to lay hold of? Can we become perfect in this world? If it’s not possible, what was Paul shooting for? He mentions “pressing on” or “reaching forward” three times in these verses. What does this mean? What is involved in pressing on to become sanctified? What kind of actions might someone take who is pressing on for holiness? How can you press on for this in your own life? What changes can you make? Why is it important to forget what is behind? How could not forgetting the past hinder future service to God? What are the similarities between what Paul is talking about here and an athlete? What is the prize Paul can get if he achieves his goal? What prize/reward are you striving for? What does it take for an athlete to win at a world-class level, like in the Olympics? What is one way you can make more effort to strive for the goal?

(2 Thess. 2:13-15, Prov. 24:16, 1 John 1:9, 1 John 1:7, Heb. 8:12, Ps. 102:12, Heb. 12:2, 1 Cor. 9:24)

2. Phil. 3:17-19: Why would Paul set himself up as their example? Was this prideful? Isn’t Chris our only example? Why is it beneficial to observe others who follow this pattern? Who is one person that has modeled one aspect of the Christian life to you? How did this impact you? What is one thing you can model to other younger believers? Who are the enemies of the cross of Christ? Are all enemies of the cross Satanists? Where do we encounter enemies of God? What does it mean that their god is their appetite?

(1 Cor. 11:1, 1 Tim. 6:12, James 4:4, 1 John 2:15)

3. Phil. 3:20-21: What is an example of an earthly thing that you sometimes set your mind on? What does it mean to you that our citizenship is in Heaven? Knowing this, how should we act while we are on earth? If you were to leave your country and move abroad, what might you miss? Do you think about Heaven? Do you long for anything there? What is one way you can be heavenly minded this week?

(Col. 3:2, Rom. 12:1-2)

People are available Sunday mornings at the conclusion of each service to pray confidentially for your concerns. Simply come to the front as others are leaving ~ look for those wearing name tags.
You can also email us your prayer requests.