

# MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

## **PRESS ON** **Philippians 3:12-14**

Our focus 2 weeks ago: HOPE – the vital necessity of hope in life AND the living & sure hope believers in Christ have through His resurrection from the dead.

Today our focus is on ... *FOCUS* - focus in life on the future, on the goal before us.

In this regard the Apostle Paul presents himself as a model. In some ways, Paul was unique in history and *not* our model. But in Philippians 3 he presents himself as an example believers should follow (v.17).

### **1. Focus (or Lack of Focus) in Life**

Basic outlooks or orientations:

- a. Focused on the past – longing, wistful, regretful  
BUT Christian faith is rooted in the past: the great works of God for our salvation.
- b. Living the NOW – very popular, but:  
Like bobbing corks in the stream of life, going with the flow – right to the waterfall!  
Again, Christian live in the present: We are called to love & serve God and people here and now, not someday.
- c. Future oriented / goal oriented - good or bad, depending:  
If focused on earth-bound goals, attained by human effort - destined for dust and fire, obliterated by death.  
If focused on what God has promised & God will do, then sure & certain and eternal.

### **2. Paul's Focus – Our Focus (believers in Christ)**

What Paul looks forward to:

resurrection from the dead (v.11), perfection (v.12),

bodily transformation to be like Christ in His resurrection glory (v.21)

These are promised by God in His Word and made sure by the work of Christ (His death and resurrection).

They are sure and certain. And they are God's doings.

### **3. Not There Yet, So ... Press On ... Press On**

What God will do is what Paul strives to attain (not to earn!).

What Paul has not attained, and cannot here, he strives for.

Is this a contradiction? No.

Christ has laid hold of Paul – and every believer – with a purpose.

Christ's purpose must be OUR purpose. (See 1 John 3:1-3)

Present inability and certainty of God's future doing do not sap resolve, but Christ's saving work (2:5-11) & God's power at work now (2:13) plus the assurance of glorious success, give us the motive to "press on" and "reach for the goal" (heaven).