

**Philippians #9  
Philippians 3:12-14  
“Press On”**

*Even a quick study of the Apostle Paul’s life would show him to be a man of passion and purpose. And in the passage for this week, Tom will explain some key principles that could radically change the way we plow through life – by “pressing on.”*

Tom does a quick review of Paul’s past from Acts 9. Go back and read this chapter about Paul/Saul. As you do, reflect on your own past. Can you identify things that God saved you from? How would you summarize what Tom referred to as “the amazing reversal” of following Christ- in your life?

Tom quoted Major Ian Thomas’ writing that said that in any humanistic way an examination of Christ’s life would show He had no background of note. Jesus had nothing – socially, educationally, or financially. Yet, Thomas realized that He who had nothing was everything, and we who think to be everything are nothing. And when we follow Him, we can become something. Have you made this same discovery? How do the following passages strengthen this discovery?

◆ John 15:5 and Philippians 4:13

Verse 12 shows us that nobody is perfect, not even the Apostle Paul. Our Christian faith has been described as a “work in progress.” Why is it helpful to remember that God isn’t finished with us (yet)? How does this also help us relate to others?

Tom reviewed these nine benefits of growth in our Christian faith. Pick out the two that you think are most important and explain why.

1. Our growth glorifies God.
2. Growth is evidence of genuine salvation.
3. Growth makes visible the truth of God.
4. Growth provides an assurance of salvation.
5. When we grow we persevere over sorrow.
6. Growth protects the cause of Christ from reproach.

7. Growth produces joy.
8. Growth equips us for ministry.
9. Growth enhances your testimony.

“Press on” is an action word that means to pursue, follow after or to press toward something. Paul uses “press on” twice in verses 12 and 14. If you were to give an honest assessment (1-10) of your current “press on” capacity, where would you be?

Tom discussed the “principle of focus” tying it to the phrase “one thing I do.” Look up these other scriptures which accentuate this principle of focus. What is each passage saying to you about what is important?

- ◆ Psalm 27:4
- ◆ Luke 10:41-42

In order to succeed in pressing on we must move on beyond both our failures and our successes. How can both spectrums of our past hinder us from the progress God wants for us? How can 2 Corinthians 5:17 help us move forward?

Tom closed with three challenging questions. Spend time praying about these and ask God for the insight to assess and the empowering strength to change. Which needs the most focus in your life to help you press on?

1. Have you left the past behind?
2. Are you making progress?
3. Are you passionately following your dreams?