

In God We Trust: Press In and Press On

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – January 17, 2021

Philippians 3:7-16

7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. 15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

1. PRESS IN TO CHRIST BY FAITH BECAUSE NOTHING ELSE MATTERS (OR IS THE SOLUTION)

Philippians 3:8-10

8... I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord ... I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection...

2. PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL OF KNOWING CHRIST BETTER

Philippians 3:12-14

12... I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13... Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

3. CHRIST USES TRIALS TO MATURE US

Philippians 3:15-16

15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things... 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Philippians 1:6

6... he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Psalms 9:9-10

9 The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. 10 Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.