

“ARE YOU PRESSING ON TO ‘KNOW’ CHRIST?” Pt. 2

(Philippians 3:13-14)

I. PAUL WARNED THE PHILIPPIANS OF DOCTRINAL ERROR (3:1-6)

II. PAUL COUNTED ALL THINGS AS LOSS FOR CHRIST HIS SAVIOR (3:7-9)

III. PAUL’S BURNING DESIRE TO KNOW CHRIST (3:10-12)

IV. PAUL’S SINGLE MINDEDNESS OF PRESSING TOWARDS THE GOAL (3:13-14)

- A. The use of the affectionate term “_____” was most likely utilized to draw the Philippians’ _____ to Paul’s conclusion on the matter. (3:13a)
- B. The apostle’s statement, “*I do not count myself to have apprehended*” is an emphatic declaration that he had _____ reached _____ perfection. (3:13b)
- C. Paul had an indomitable spirit, which was very _____, “*one thing I do.*” (3:13c)
- D. Even though Paul had remembered his religious background in verses 4-6, he was willing to keep on forgetting those things which were behind him. (3:13d)
1. Saul of Tarsus had once been a religious Pharisee, but practically speaking it brought _____ to his post salvation life; likewise we cannot rest on past laurels from our pre-salvation days.
 2. While your average person cannot forget the past, as believers we must not _____ the past to _____ our present nor our future.

3. As a Christian you must recognize that while sin is always _____ to God, because He is sovereign He can ultimately use evil for good to _____ you something about yourself and about His grace. (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28)

E. Paul wasn't _____ a lot time bemoaning his _____; instead he was continually "*reaching forward to those things which are ahead.*" (3:13e)

1. The apostle's past was actually used by the Lord to _____ him to labor more diligently. (1 Cor. 15:9-10)

2. The word "*reaching*" speaks of an athlete in a race who _____ forward and _____ himself out to reach the tape. (Acts 20:23-24; 1 Cor. 9:23-27; 2 Tim. 4:7)

* What was Paul referring to with the phrase, "*those things which are ahead*"?

F. The verb "*press*" denotes _____, concentrated pursuit, but it can also involve intense _____ in the process. (3:14)

1. The apostle was not drifting aimlessly, but he was _____ and _____ to forge ahead for the prize. (2 Cor. 5:10)

2. This human endeavor was made _____ by "*the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" (Heb. 12:1-2)

* How can this perspective have an impact in your own life?