

## A Firm Focus, Part 1

### Q: What was the one thing (or main goal) Paul pressed toward?

- Paul disciplined himself toward the supreme goal of knowing Jesus, and being perfectly found in Him.
- A Firm **Focus** (vs. 12-14).  
Keeping the main thing the main thing.  
Ps. 119:5, 173-176; Ro. 7:19-24; Ga. 5:17; 1 Ti. 6:12; Ja. 3:2
- With great effort, determination, commitment and self-control Paul maintained a firm **focus** on Jesus.  
Ps. 138:8; 1 Co. 13:10; 2 Co. 7:1; 13:9; Ep. 4:12; He. 12:23; 13:21; 1 Pe. 5:10
- The firm **focus** on Jesus includes divine grace and personal responsibility.  
Ep. 1:4. 2:8-10; 1 Co. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:10-14; 2 Th. 2:13

### Q: What sort of correction might some of the Philippians need?

- The view (legalist) of arriving at perfection-in the body.
- A FIXED **Focus** (vs. 15-17).  
Adjusting the focus to the main thing.  
Matt. 17:8. John 6:68, 14:6, 17:3, 20: 30-31. Acts 4:12
- Knowing Jesus remains the focus, rather than **SELF-FOCUS**.  
1 Co. 2:6; 3:1-3; 14:20. Col. 1:28; 4:12. 2 Ti. 3:17; 4:10
- If anything else presently seems more important, the grace of God and example of Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus will help instruct you.  
Ro. 12:16; 15:5. 1 Co. 4:16; 10:32, 33; 11:1. Col. 2:6. 1 Th. 1:6

Closing, remaining with the firm focus of KNOWING Jesus provides the best perspective for life.

For further study:

1. A Firm Focus 12-14. Keeping the main thing the main thing. If a video were to record all your days, would your behavior prove or deny that Jesus is the most important thing (person) in your life. Explain.
2. A Fixed Focus 15-17. Adjusting the focus to the main thing. What things (distracting, and/or destructive) are you willing to confess and repent of today. Explain.

Paul's pressing on is not aimless but purposeful. He keeps on running a straight course and will not allow himself to be distracted or turned aside. 'It is the vision of the end of the race that ever directs and speeds his hastening feet.'

**-Peter Thomas O'Brien**

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