



July 21, 2019

# DIGGING DEEPER

Philippians 3:12-16

**The purpose of this document** is to help us  
take the word beyond our Sunday gathering  
and to **think through the practical**  
**implications of the Scriptures** and then to  
**be intentional about living the word out.**

[michael@vintagenc.com](mailto:michael@vintagenc.com)

Vintage Church Durham



## Press with Purpose

Philippians 3:12; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20,32-34; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

### Questions Worth Asking

Paul was living with the end goal in mind. His sights were fixed on being with Jesus for eternity. While he knew he hadn't obtained the resurrection from the dead, he was also certain that attaining it wasn't a meaningless pursuit. The confidence in Paul's press was the result of knowing he had been purchased by Christ. Jesus already paid Paul's entrance fee to eternity with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Paul was responsible to press his way into the place that has been prepared for him. And it was clear what Paul had to do to make it in, trust and obey the one who paid his entry fee. Christ has made us his own and promised us a place in his home. Now we must press with purpose to be in the place that he has so graciously prepared.

1. What causes you to pursue, with purpose, something that is not physically within reach at the moment?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- When was a time you had a purpose that built a passion to go after something with all your effort and energy?
- How does your purpose inform your preferences and even harness your energy?
- What things have you been willing to sacrifice for something that you felt was worth obtaining?

2. How do you maintain confidence in a pursuit that seems to be so far off or even implausible to achieve at times?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How does a supportive community help you stay focused when times get hard?
- How does isolation cripple your cause to attain that which is so meaningful to you?
- What measures do you take to ensure you won't be derailed from achieving something that is worth your time, treasure and talent?

### Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you press with purpose toward the promise of God...

1. Remember what you are pressing towards...heaven.
2. Meditate on the promises of God. Read the word of God every day. We can't stay excited if our faith is fading.
3. Share with someone the hope you have in Jesus.
4. If you are in a season that seems dry, ask for help remembering the hope you have in Jesus.

# Eyes On The Prize

Philippians 3:13-14; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

## Questions Worth Asking

There was no distracting Paul from the goal that he had his eyes set on. Paul had a fixed focus on the prize that lay before him. So much so, that he wasn't concerned with the things that were behind him. Paul not only let go of his earthly accomplishments' he didn't rest on the spiritual feats that the Lord performed through him. There was a continual, unrelenting press in Paul. He was determined to see the Lord and know him as he was known by him. There are many distractions behind us that hinder our pursuit of the promise that lies before us. The future goal is what should determine the way we live our present lives. These are not the days to be driven by distractions. This is the time to live disciplined lives in pursuit of a place that Jesus had promised us. Stay focused and keep your eyes on the prize.

### 1. How have you seen your focus fuel the way you live your life?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How do we get distracted from a promise we once pursued with unrivaled passion?
- Why do we seem to allow distractions to derail us instead of positioning ourselves to ward them off?
- What should our approach to ensure we don't allow distractions (weights) to slow us down from running our race with endurance?

### 2. How has a goal compelled you to fight in a season(s) when you didn't feel so strong?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why does a singular focus provide a determination that propels us to give our all?
- When was a time that you pushed through pain to attain a desired outcome (i.e. school)?
- How could the attributes demonstrated in the aforementioned pursuit translate to your pursuit of the promise of God (that great day)?

## Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you keep your eyes on the prize...

1. Set boundaries that will help you to keep from being derailed by distractions.
2. **Stop multitasking.** It isn't a real thing. You are simply switch-tasking and being less efficient in multiple tasks.
3. Commit to practicing a spiritual discipline daily. Here are some ideas:
  - a. Pray three times a day. Not asking anything from God, but expressing thanksgiving and praise to God. You can certainly pray more times if there are specific request you feel moved to take before the Lord.
  - b. Read the Bible 10 minutes at 3 different times in the day.
  - c. Fast (don't eat food) one day this week and pray and read the Bible during the meal times.

## Connected to Christ

Philippians 3:15-16; 1 John 2:1-6

### Questions Worth Asking

Paul recognized that not everyone may share the same perspective of pressing forward for the prize that the Lord has promised for his children. The difference in perspective, however, didn't necessarily mean a difference in lifestyle. Even if we don't focus on pursuing that which we haven't attained, there is something every believer has attained that should compel us to live as disciplined followers of Jesus Christ. Every believer has attained a right relationship with the Redeemer through the blood of Jesus. Because we are found in Christ and have a partnership in the gospel (Philippians 1:5-7), we should be living a life of complete surrender to our Savior. The believer is called to OBEY LOVE! Distractions lead to disobedience which will end in a disconnection from our Creator. The one who claims to know Jesus is expected to live like him. If we are going to stay connected to Christ, we must be willing to copy Christ. And our Savior was obedient to death, even death on a cross. May we all be dying to live! (Matthew 10:34-39)

1. How has your perspective impacted the way you process experiences in this life?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- In what ways have you seen your faith in Christ change the way you understand the world around you?
- As you mature in your faith, how have you come to appreciate the seasons of suffering and the changes you have seen in your character?
- What have you done, or are you doing, to see your perspective align with the way God sees things?

3. How does your obedience to the word of God give you confidence that you are truly connected to Christ?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why does disobedience to the Lord cause so many to wrestle with the confidence they should have in Christ?
- In what ways has a perfectionist culture crippled our ability to press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?
- Why is complacency in the faith debilitating to the development of a disciple?

### Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you stay connected to Christ...

1. **Read through the Bible in 12 months.** That would require about 15 minutes of reading each day. You must know what God is calling you to do as a disciple. The best way to do that is to read his word.
2. Cut off anything that is creating a distraction to your discipleship. There are some shows, books, songs, friends, etc. that are not drawing you closer to Christ. No matter how good it may feel, it isn't worth our soul. Let it go so you can hold true to what you have attained.
3. **Be like Christ...SERVE!!!** Contact [Phil Lauria](#) to see how you can be used of God to be a blessing to the family.