

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Commitment: Moving Forward

Philippians 3:12-16

Sunday, January 5, 2020

¹²I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize. ¹³My friends, I don't feel I have already arrived. But I forget what is behind, and I struggle for what is ahead. ¹⁴I run toward the goal, so I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done. ¹⁵All of us who are mature should think in this same way. And if any of you think differently, God will make it clear to you. ¹⁶But we must keep going in the direction that we are now headed. CEV

The apostle Paul is held to be one of the best lived Christian lives in the history of the church. Yet he made it clear that even he had not arrive a perfection. He made a determination that he would be laser focused on discovering as much as he could about the life of Christ and imitate Him as much as humanly possible.

Not one of us has arrived - we all push forward. We're not yet complete, we haven't matured. We've got a long way to go. But growth and maturity are possible, and indeed, expected of every child of God.

AVOID A DISTORTED VIEW OF THE PAST

^{13b}...I forget what is behind, CEV

What nearly caused the recently freed Israelites to fail was the pull of their past "safety," which was really not safe at all. It certain does free us from responsibility and goal-setting, but it robs us of just about everything else.

And besides, the desert was just too bland and boring.

Numbers 11:5

"We remember the fish we used to eat for free in Egypt. And we had all the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic we wanted. NLT

...and I struggle for what is ahead. CEV

Those who achieve goals of significance have discovered a simple secret. They spend far more time focusing on their goals than on their past successes and failures.

The keys to successfully struggling not to lose sight of the prize are:

- "Amnesia"
- Patience
- Persistence

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

You've got to focus on this one thing: Leaving behind past relationships, past places, & past mentalities – so you can fully embrace what you're moving towards.

14b| run toward the goal, so I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done. CEV

Each day is a fresh start, so keep going. God is actually working harder at this than you are. What a great perspective leading into a new year.

"Moving Forward" by Israel Houghton:

*What a moment You have brought me to, such a freedom, Lord I have found in You
You're the Healer who makes all things new. I'm not going back, I'm moving ahead
I'm here to declare to you my past is over, I'm in You; All things are made new, surrendered my
life to Christ, I'm moving, moving forward.*

*Listen, listen, you have risen with all power in Your hands. You have given me a second
chance. Not going back, I'm moving ahead. I'm here to declare to you my past is over, I'm in
You. All things are made new, surrendered my life to Christ. I'm moving, moving forward.*

In earthly races, just one can win the prize at the end. Not so for those who run for Jesus.

When I win the prize, I do not just win it for myself, I win for everyone around me!