

Pressing Toward The Mark

The Gospel of the Kingdom - Week 3 (3-9-22)

Philippians 3:14 - "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

I. The Mark (Goal)

- A. You're either pressing toward the "mark for the prize of the high calling" or the "mark of the beast." - DL
 - 1. Most Christians are aiming at nothing and hitting it every time!
 - 2. *Goals in life as well as the Christian walk are extremely important.
 - a) What are you living for?
- B. Paul's mark - Phil. 3:10-11
 - 1. Paul's gaze was set on the power and work of Jesus.
 - a) Knowing Jesus
 - b) The power of His resurrection
 - c) The fellowship of His sufferings
 - (1) "Take up your cross", "living sacrifice"
 - 2. That he might attain (arrive at) the resurrection of the dead.
 - a) Both of his physical body after he died and spiritual throughout his time on earth.
- C. 1 Corin. 9:24-27
 - 1. Run with the intention of winning the prize!
 - 2. "temperate in all things" - has self control in all things
 - 3. Vs 25 - Corruptible vs incorruptible
 - a) James 1:12
 - b) Colos. 3:1-3
 - c) 2 Tim. 2:1-4 - Don't be distracted with the affairs of this life!
 - (1) Endure hardness as a good soldier
 - (a) "A true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him." - G. K. Chesterton
 - 4. Consider the costs - Luke 14:28
 - 5. Vs. 27 footnote
 - a) We need to be prepared to face the opposition that we know that we will be facing.
 - (1) don't be surprised by the fiery trials - 1 Peter 4:12-13

II. The Pressing

- A. Your victory will always be involved with a pressing somewhere! - DL
- B. Press into the presence of God
 - 1. 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

- C. Press into truth - Mark 2:1-5
 - 1. They were following after something they knew to be true (faith) at all costs.
 - 2. Develop a hunger for truth!
- D. Eph. 6:10-20
 - 1. Being strong in the power of **His** might
 - a) We do this by putting on **His** armor - vs 11
 - b) REMEMBER - "...we wrestle not against flesh and blood..."
 - c) Press into - Truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, your faith, your salvation, God's Word,
 - (1) Press in through prayer in the Spirit!
- E. "...Be not weary in well doing..." 2 Thess. 3:13 and Galatians 6:8-10
 - 1. "...for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." - There **WILL** be a reward!
 - a) He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him! - Hebrews 11:6
- F. 1 Thess. 5:6-11
 - 1. Don't go to sleep like everyone else is!
 - 2. Vs. 8 - Press into/focus on faith, love, and the hope of salvation - this is how we stay sober in a drowsy and drunken world.
- G. Approving ourselves as the ministers of God - 2 Corin. 6:4-10

*One of the classics in psychology is Viktor Frank's book "Man search for meaning." He was a holocaust survivor and noticed something rather scaring when he was in the death camp of Auschwitz. **He could predict who will soon die.** When a prisoner stopped getting out of bed and the Nazis had to force him out of bed, this prisoner would die soon. These prisoners didn't see a point in doing any action for the day and thus no reason to continue living. They didn't die because of wounds or injuries, their life just ended.