

INTRODUCTION

- Series Intro: A Captivated Life **(Slide)**
 - Part 1: There is More
 - Recap
 - Part 2: Press On **(slide)**

Connect:

- Story: Mentor car drive (Pastor Alex Michel)
 - Season of my life where following Jesus had come at a cost. The uncertainty of my future had left me second guessing if I had made the right decision.
 - I don't remember who initiated the topic but it was concerning walking away from Jesus. Could I walk away?
 - I started reflecting on all the moments I had in God's presence where I had encountered his love, his grace, his mercy, his joy, his peace, and hope
 - If I did my soul would be forever restless
 - Why?
 - The words of the Apostle Peter came to mind, when people were deserting Jesus after some controversial statements. Jesus then asked his closest followers, "Do you want to go away as well?"
 - Peter's response has then become an anchor for my soul, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
 - The love of God captivated my life that I knew this was the way to go. Despite the uncertainty of my future, and the cost of following him. I continued to press on and have continued to press on.
- **Interrogative:**
 - To the one who wants to quit: Have you ever felt like quitting and walking away from your relationship with Jesus? You are looking at others deserting him and following Jesus has become increasingly harder in our culture that you are thinking of walking away.
 - To the one who has become comfortable: Perhaps you have chosen to follow Jesus but with restrictions and boundaries in your life. Saying, Jesus I want the relationship, I want the encounters of love, grace, mercy, joy, peace, and hope but not at a cost.
 - To the one who has walked away: You are wondering will he welcome me? What about my shame?

Main Idea: In knowing Jesus. There is more. Press on. **(Slide)**

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:10-12 **(Slide)**

- 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Prayer

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Text in Focus: Explanation

- V:11 “that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”
 - “By any means possible I may attain”
 - What is Paul’s determination and focus?
 - He is not passive, indifferent “If it happens, it happens”, “If I make it, I make it”, “If God wills it”
 - He is not restrictive: “As long as it doesn’t cost me _____ I want to attain the resurrection from the dead.”
 - He is active in his response. He is determined and focused in his pursuit. He is all in.
 - “The resurrection of the dead”
 - What is the resurrection of the dead?
 - It is the moment where those who have placed their faith in Jesus will share in the fullness Jesus’ triumph over death and sin. Where our original body will be raised and transformed.
 - The resurrection for Paul was the final, total gain of Christ, of being with Christ. The barrier of sin, the barrier of our mortal bodies, the barrier of heaven and earth, is completely gone. We will know the fullness of God’s glory-of his presence.
 - Example:
 - Long Distance Dating
 - Engagement
 - Marriage: To know the one whom my soul loves.

Transition: However, that moment has not yet arrived. And so we get a glimpse into Paul's mindset of pressing on toward Jesus. That can be a guide for our lives as we press on toward Jesus.

- V:12 “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own because Christ Jesus has made me his own.”
 - “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect”
 - We often lift up the Apostle Paul beyond being human, that he arrived to perfection.
 - However we see a glimpse of Paul's own view of himself. Paul did not claim perfection, he did not claim that the work of God in his life was fully complete.
 - “I have neither obtained and I am neither perfect”
 - “But I press on to make it my own”
 - We again see Paul's determination and focus
 - He is determined to press on
 - Defined: “To run after, to reach the goal”
 - Metaphor of a race, to run swiftly, speeding earnestly, to seek after eagerly
 - Why does Paul press on?
 - “Because Christ Jesus has made me his own.”
 - The language that Paul uses here means to apprehend and lay hold
 - Because Christ has apprehended me, lay hold of me I press on. Paul is responding.
 - Paraphrase v:12: “I want to lay hold-apprehend Christ Jesus in the same way he has lay hold-apprehended me, I know I am not there yet, or perfect at it but I press on”

Transition: Paul was neither discouraged because he wasn't perfect nor did his assurance of Christ having lay hold of him temper his pursuit to press on in his longing to know Jesus more.

ESSENTIALS (Slide)

1. We Have Not Yet Obtained
2. We Press On
3. We Have Been Made His Own

1. We Have Not Yet Obtained (slide)

a. We may not be where we want to be but we are not where we used to be

i. We live in this tension between who we have been, who we are, and who we are becoming.

1. Discouragement-Condernation

a. Our imperfection can sometimes be a discouragement in our pursuit of Jesus.

b. Because we go back to being who we used to be.

ii. Illustration:

1. The first time I sinned as a Christian, I was discouraged, It was the first time I felt conviction for my sin. So my initial reaction was to hide from God

2. Battling with imperfection: I would look at all the fruit of the spirit and be discouraged because I felt I was falling short.

iii. Application

1. Mind shift: You may not be where you want to be but you are not where you used to be.

a. Philippians 1:6

i. He began the work and He would bring it into completion

Transition: God is working in you. Don't be discouraged in the process. Press on.

2. We Press On (slide)

a. To know the one who fully knows us and loves us

i. There is a heartbreaking reality the longer you have been following Jesus.

1. Not everyone presses on, the reasons vary

a. Some become discouraged, angry, frustrated and so they walk away

b. Some settle for the comfortable way of following Jesus or they get busy and so their passion eventually flames out.

c. Some decide that the cost of dying to sin is too costly and too difficult and so they silence their longing for God.

d. Reasons vary

ii. Illustration:

1. Previous story: Jesus was deserted.

a. Parents, friends, ministry

iii. Application:

1. Mindshift: I will press on
 - a. It might be easy now to say I will press on but if we don't renew our minds and wait for the deciding moment of when we have to press on it will be difficult

Transition:

3. We Have Been Made His Own (slide)

a. Captivated by the love of God, his love empowers us to press on

- i. It is not by our strength that we press but it is in continual relationship with Jesus and knowing him more and being captivated by his love that we are empowered to press on.

ii. Illustration:

- b. Have you ever been captivated by love in such a way that your life changes?

- i. Story: Birth of Azaiah
 1. Initial impression
 2. He captivated my heart, I looked at him and felt vulnerable.
 3. Then came the process of what it means to be a father. So I started to pray for myself that I could be the father he needs as he goes through the different stages of life, the highs and lows. That I could lead him to a relationship with God, that the closeness in which I have known God that he may know God deeper.
- ii. Answered Prayer:
 1. In the process God began to reveal areas he wanted to bring healing and freedom in. In this journey of surrender there have been moments of failure and tears, and so there have been moments where it has been "God this is too hard", "I can't do it, I don't know how, I am tired,"

- c. Quote: "The parent's own growth and development, or lack of, has an impact. As parents become more aware and emotionally healthy, their children reap the reward and move toward health as well."

- i. I press on because I love him.

***Worship Team**

ii. Application: (Slide)

1. **“To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul’s paradox of love.” — A.W. Tozer**
 - a. Why is it a paradox because he love leaves us full yet longing for more
 2. The practice of being in his presence and learning to press in.
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Conclusion:

- In knowing Jesus there is more. Press on
 - Let neither the discouragement of imperfection deter you from pressing on
 - Let neither the truth that you have the full assurance of Christ having apprehended you temper your pursuit to press on to know him more.

Ministry Time:

- Ask God, how do you want me to respond to today’s message?
- The Jesus I am longing for is not in the boat, He is walking on water

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you

The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace, shalom, from this

day forward

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Amen

Notes

- <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/philippians-3/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/resurrection-and-immortality-eight-theses/>
- John Piper: <https://youtu.be/-o3Se0vncM>

