

***TO LIVE IS CHRIST*****Pressing Toward the Goal****Philippians 3:12—4:1**

*“I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”* Philippians 3:12

**Day 1: Read Philippians 3:12–14.**

1. What is the “all this” (vs. 12) that Paul aspires to, but has not yet fully obtained?
2. Have you “arrived” in your Christian life? Are you perfectly sinless? Will you “arrive” someday at perfect Christ-likeness? (1:6; 1 Jn. 3:2–3)
3. Is significant progress in Christian growth made in this present life, or does all the significant growth take place only at Christ’s return? (1:9–11, 2:12–16; 2 Cor. 3:18)

**Day 2: Read Philippians 3:12–14.**

4. What is Paul’s attitude—and resolution—about his present state of Christian maturity? (vss. 12–13)
5. Paul says, “one thing I do” (vs. 13). What is it? Do you do that too? (vs. 14)
6. What in your past do you need to let go of so that you can make progress in pressing on?
7. What meditation is not wise to engage in? Why do you suppose this is an unhelpful preoccupation?

**Day 3: Read Philippians 3:13–14.**

8. What exactly does Paul “press on” (vs. 14) toward? (vss. 7–11) For what purpose has God taken hold of you? (1 Pet. 2:9)

9. To what does Paul compare this muscular lifestyle of “pressing on”? (1 Cor. 9:24–26) Think of some ways you can begin to live like that. (Hint: Jn. 6:29; Jas. 4:8, 10; 1 Thess. 5:16–22; 1 Pet. 2:2)

**Day 4: Read Philippians 3:14–17.**

10. What is one mark of a mature believer? (vss. 13–15)
11. What will God make clear to you if you take this mature view and forsake dwelling on the past and begin pressing toward Christ?
12. What does Paul counsel about observing the Christian walk of other mature believers? What have you learned by observing other believers in your own life?

**Day 5: Read Philippians 3:17—4:1.**

13. Many an unbeliever has no qualms about praising Jesus as a good teacher. But “many live as enemies of the *cross* of Christ” (vs. 18). What is it about the cross of Christ that is so offensive? (1 Cor. 1:18, 23–25)
14. What motive is working in the enemy of Christ? (3:19) What is his or her mind on continually? (vs. 19)
15. Why is the mature Christian’s mind not absorbed by things of the earth? (3:20)
16. What will the Lord Jesus do someday soon, and how will it affect you? (vss. 20–21)
17. Use this week’s passage to summarize how we, as believers growing in our faith, should “stand firm in the Lord” (4:1).
18. Where in your own life do you need to pray for the grace to “stand firm”?