



Pressing On to the Upward Call

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: To learn that there is no time to let up and get complacent, but that we need to continually press on to the upward call in Christ Jesus.

Read Philippians 3:12 -14 - Pressing On to the Upward Call!

- Paul continues his discourse from verse 11, making it clear that his goal has not yet been attained.
- He is clear to make sure that the readers understand that he is not perfect, but that he continues to press on to the goal of becoming like Christ and looking toward resurrection!
- We must press on toward Christ as He purposed - Christ bought us with a price - we are His own!
- When Paul speaks about “forgetting what lies behind”, the act of forgetting in the original Greek was an ongoing and continual action, not a one time event. We must continually leave behind those things that could hinder the Work of God!
- In straining or striving for what lies ahead, it is the act of giving your all to finish a race at all cost!
- We must give our all, at all times in “Pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”! Everything must be centered on the Purpose of God!

Read Philippians 3:15 - 3:19 - Walking as a Follower of the Cross or as an Enemy of the Cross!

- As we mature, the full commitment to pressing on toward the “upward call” should be very evident in our lives! For those that do not yet understand, if we hold true to the faith, God will reveal it to us!
- We should watch those who are mature in the faith and consider them examples of how we are to run the race of faith.
- We need to be weary of those who do not walk according to the faith, they are enemies of the Cross whose end is destruction. These enemies of the Cross look to and long for earthly things.
- While Paul is reiterating his warning about these “enemies of the Cross of Christ”, he does so in tears - we need to be vigilant in warning, but also vigilant in compassion for those who are lost!

Read Philippians 3:20 - 4:1 - Where is Our Eternal Citizenship?

- We have to ultimately come to understand that while we are sojourners or aliens in the earth, our eternal residence and citizenship is in Heaven!
- We must live out our natural lives on earth, but not for earthly benefit, our lives must be lived to bring God Glory, preach the Gospel and build the Kingdom of God!
- While we dwell in the earth we await Jesus our Savior to transform our lowly bodies to glorious bodies!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Do you understand how Paul’s exhortation on “pressing on” currently applies, or can be applied in your personal life?

- We must first identify if we are indeed pressing on, or if we just talk about it!
- Do not be discouraged by areas that you may find tougher than others with continuing to press on, connect with others that can encourage and help you through the tough areas. Be there for others to help them through their tough areas.
- One encouragement we have to make us bold in pressing on, is that we are not our own! Christ has made us HIS own!
- When we leave all we have behind and press on to what lies ahead - this is where we find the strength to continue faithfully running the race - because our eyes are indeed on the prize - Christ!

Question 2: Are you walking as a follower of the Cross of Christ?

- Just because we come to church every Sunday does not mean we are! We can easily turn into religious performers that do not know Christ nor follow His Ministry and Commission.
- Being a follower, can be easily identified, is Christ the center of ALL things in our lives? Does Christ have preeminence over everything in our lives? Any area(s) he does not, is an area where we need to give Him control!

Question 3: Where is your citizenship? Does your life reflect the citizenship of Heaven and as an alien on earth, or does it reflect someone who’s citizenship is on earth and is an alien of Heaven?

- Citizens of Heaven recognize they are not a member of a democracy, but are residents of a kingdom!
- Our King, King Jesus, is the King of Kings! We must dwell under His Reign and surrender our lives to Him. If we do not, then we are struggling with our identity and citizenship.

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data

Jubilee International Ministries – Connect Group Curriculum
Philippians Lesson 8

