

REDEEMING THE DISRUPTION

If you're familiar with Paul then it's likely you see him as a model of a strong Christian faith. Maybe you even see him as *the strongest* example of faith. He's a remarkable figure in the Bible. Of the New Testament's 27 books, the guy wrote 13! Not bad. Because he was so prominent, we might think Paul had "arrived" spiritually. He was in prison, after all, for his commitment to Jesus. Maybe Paul had maxed out his potential and could now take it easy. If you really are familiar with the life of Paul then you know none of this could be further from the truth! Here's a man whose faith never stopped running even when his body was constrained.

Main Text: Philippians 3:12-4:1

CONNECT

1. How has this past week gone for you? Are there any new struggles or needs that you're experiencing?
2. What did you take away from last Sunday's sermon? Was something especially significant, inspiring, confusing, or helpful?

LEARN & OBSERVE

1. Read the passage. What is Paul "pressing on" to in verses 12-14? What is the "prize" for him?
2. In verse 13, Paul says that he forgets what is behind and strains forward. Why would it be important for Paul to not dwell on his past?
3. Why does Paul find it so important in verses 17-18 for the believers in Philippi to find examples of people like himself?
4. Why do you think Paul is reminding the Philippians that their "citizenship is in heaven" in verse 20?

APPLY

1. Paul states twice that he hasn't yet obtained his goal or "arrived" spiritually. What can we learn from his attitude as we think about our own pursuit of God's promises?
2. What do you think it looks like for you and your LifeGroup or class to "press on"? What are one or two practical things you can either begin doing or be encouraged to continue to do?

3. In order to advance well, we must learn to not let our past overly influence our present (i.e., "forget what's behind"). This can get personal, but what in your past do you need to forget?

4. Who are the examples to "keep your eyes on" (v. 17) and follow in your life? How do they help you "stand firm" (4:1)?

5. How do verses 20-21 strike you? How do you think the promises of these verses can help us adopt the same "pressing-on" kind of mindset that Paul had?