

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOW SHIP

Reaching for The Prize!

Philippians 3:12-16

Vs. 12, "Not that I have **already** attained, or am **already** perfected"

- Our earthly life is made of **milestones**, not **destinations**
- **Everything** is preparatory for more

.....
"But I **press on**, that I may **lay hold of** that for which **Christ Jesus** has also **laid hold of me**."

- **Never** settle in and settle down
- Retirement is a **deception**
- **Life is in the future**, even the next moment

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Was he pressing to lay hold only **for himself**?

- **1:27 & 2:2-4**
- He was reaching **for us all** together
- And calls us to join him in it

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Song of Solomon 6:10, "Who is **she** who looks forth as the morning, **Fair** as the moon, **Clear** as the sun, **Awesome** as an army with banners?"

Who is she?

- The **Bride of Christ! The Church!**
- **Optimistic, Beautiful, Pure & Powerful!**

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Why does hell & the devil assail Christ's Church?

- Because she **TERRIFIES** him!!!
- If we dare become who **He declares us to be!**

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Who defines who we **Are** & who we are **Becoming**?

- If it's not **The Lord**, we are being ripped off!

If we don't believe who **HE** says we are, and **live like it**...

- We'll **settle for far less** than He laid hold of us for
- **Do NOT be robbed!**

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Vs. 13, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but **one thing I do**, forgetting those things which **are behind** and **reaching forward** to those things which **are ahead**"

"I do not count myself to have apprehended"

- **I haven't arrived yet**. So...

"**One thing** I do..."

- The most important thing about **moving forward** is...

.....
"Forgetting those things which **are behind**"

- **Leaving the past in the past**

"Forgetting" = To lose/**hide** out of mind by **distribution** of time

- Don't **allow it to be found** in our thinking
- Put it in the attic, or basement or storage unit
- **What?** Stuff we don't need to live

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If our past is **defining our present** (good or bad)

- It will **hinder our future**
- **Lamenting** the bad that happened to us
- Or **longing for** the good that is behind us

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“And reaching forward to those things which are ahead”

“Reaching” = To stretch forward, also in distribution of time

- To see ourselves laying hold of **what we don't have yet**
- Putting **in full sight** things God says **“are ahead”**
- Hiding what we **don't need now**, out of sight

Vs. 14, “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

“Press toward” = To pursue & run forward in a given assignment

“For the prize” = The trophy for an athletic event

“The upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 4:13, “Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”

“Till we all come to the unity of the faith” – Together!

“Of the knowledge of the Son of God” – To fully understand (distribution of time)

- To know & identify with what God has revealed ahead of us

“To a perfect man” – The Church!

- Who we **ARE in Him!**

“To the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”

- This is getting scary... if it's not Him
- **But it IS!**

John 17:20-23, “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

Now, we either believe it, or we don't

If this is all true – why didn't Paul have it yet?

- Because **we can't have it** without each other
- That includes our congregation...
- But it's more than any one congregation
- **I Corinthians 1:10-13 & 12:12-27**
- **Ephesians 1:1 & Philippians 1:1**
- And **the church in Gig Harbor**

Vs. 15-16, “Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.”

Maturity doesn't happen by accident, or come with age

- It too, is **laid hold of** on purpose
- It comes by the conviction of righteousness
- And humility (**2:2-5**)