

The Joyful Journey

PART 20

The Glory of Christ: *Pressing, Perfection & the Prize*

Philippians 3:12-14

This Series:

Hedonism, Heaven & Hell
Legalism, Lies & Loss
Grace, Glory & Great Gain
Righteousness, Rubbish & Resurrection
Pressing, Perfection & the Prize - Today
Hope, Heaven & Healthy Living

Paradise Lost

- OT story of death & captivity - genealogies: “so and so begat so and so and died...”
- OT life & the supremacy of the life to come...
- Daniel & the Ultimate debate of the intertestamental period - Pharisees & Sadducees
- All that matters

Paradise Regained

What do we know about what we want above all else:

1. This isn't it! - “*Pressing*”

- Godly Discontentment **v. 12a**
- The Contentment of All Saints & The Joy of the Martyrs
- “This” is vapor, passing, dust, brief, momentary, a shadow etc...

2. It's Real! - “*Perfect*”

- It is Literal - not symbolic or “spiritual” **1 Peter 1:3-4, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**
- Forgive my redundancy, but this is huge - The Only Real Thing

3. It's Everything! - “*Prize*”

- The true goal & the true prize of Christ and the gospel **v. 14, 12b & previous verses**
- Kingdom of God/Heaven through the Gospels
- Heaven is a central theme throughout the entire NT
- There's no Christianity without this. **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**
- The Upward Call **v. 14 & 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

Conclusion: *The Resurrection & Our Heavenly Citizenship defines & directs our lives* [Next Week]

Philippians 3:7-14

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 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, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Chorus:

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.