**First Baptist Church Taylorsville**

**May 19, 2019**

**Pressing Onward - A Study in Philippians**

***[Pressing Onward by Living Forward]***

**Philippians 3: 10-21**

The people of God are, more than anything, to be people who are future minded and to live our lives in a way that looks toward the New Heavens and the New Earth.

If you and I can live with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_that this world, this life, and this moment isn’t all there is, then we truly live because we are living for that which is eternal, unperishing, and everlasting.

***8 Marks of Those Who Are Living Forward***

(1) A Life that is living forward seeks to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus (V 10-11).

Knowing Jesus by the power of his resurrection means that just God’s power raised Christ from the dead, so we long to see God transform our hearts and use us to see those who are spiritually dead raised to new life.

Knowing Jesus by the fellowship of his sufferings means that in God’s kindness our sufferings in life are used to deepen our knowledge of God’s love, care, and concern for us.

As Christians our desire and prayer should be to know Christ more and deeper throughout our lives.

(2) A life that is living forward desires \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (V 12).

Although Paul was older and had lived a full life of service and dedication to the Lord, he does not feel that his race is finished - there is still more room for growth and Christlikeness in his life.

Because of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ work within us we are able to press on toward Christlikeness.

As Christians, pressing onward by living forward, we are not to be complacent but rather we should strive to know Christ and reflect him more and more as we run the race of life \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(3) A life that is living forward knows the true \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cannot be found in this life (V 13-14).

The person who lives forward does not lose focus by looking back to past success, failures, or the charms of the world.

Our pursuit should not be a passive leisurely stroll but rather a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ forward toward heaven.

The goal and prize of the upward call of Christ Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life with God.

“Faith is not a decision in the past or a vague, static reality. Faith is a straining forward to what lies ahead”

As the people of God, let us be found faithful as we live lives that are straining forward toward the goal and prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

(4) A life that is living forward is mature in their Christian life (v 15).

Those who are mature know that they are not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and that there is always room for growth.

Maturing means growing to be more like Christ in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lives

As Christians, we are to be maturing in Christ, looking more like him and modeling his character, love, compassion, and obedience.

(5) A life that is living forward holds true to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God (V 16).

Holding *true* to the unchanging Word of God and the gospel message of Jesus Christ is how we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the race faithfully.

As Christians, the “pace” that God has called us to run is simply to keep the word, be faithful to what God’s instructions, and to live lives worthy of the gospel. This is how we run the race faithfully.

(6) A life that is living forward knows who to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v17)

As the people of God let us be looking around for those who are running the race well and seek to follow their example. Let us look for those whom you can come beside and spur along in their race. Let us be examples to others in our own lives.

(7) A life that is living forward has concern for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(v18-19)

If we as the people of God really believe that there is more to this world beyond this life, then we of all people should be praying for and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the good news of Christ to those who do not yet know Him.

Who in your life do you have tears for as you consider their life without Christ? Who’s your one?

(8) A life that is living forward knows where \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is (v20-21).

The people of God should be motivated to run faithfully because we belong to the eternal kingdom of God - a city that is to come.

As Christians, we are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on earth for the heavenly kingdom and that reality propels us forward in our pursuit of Christlikeness.

In the “yet to come” Christ will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our lowly bodies to be like his and w will see the end of suffering, sickness, pain, and death.

Most of all we will sin no more! We will know Christ with deeper intimacy, as we have been transformed to be more like Him! We will reach our goal and receive the prize of eternal life with God! In astounding wonder we will be surrounded by the WORD of GOD that became flesh! Everyone there will worship God in spirit and truth! We will be home and we will be with God!

**Blanks: knowledge; know; growth God’s; faithfully; goal & prize; straining; eternal; perfect; every day; Word; run; follow; lost; telling; home; ambassadors; transform.**