

## Sermon Outline --- Rev. Jim Stuart

### “Press On!”

- I. Main point today: Single---mindedly press on in our primary calling as Christians...
  - A. And to do that in the confidence that we are righteous in God’s eyes through faith in Christ, and...
  - B. Philippians 3:1-16
- II. Backdrop for these verses ---
  - A. Jewish Christians were teaching that to be a Christian, a man had to first be circumcised in accordance with the law of Moses. This gave him “confidence in the flesh” that he was in the family of God’s chosen people.
  - B. The phrase “confidence in the flesh” is a synonym for getting into the Kingdom of God by human effort or achievement.
  - C. This major distortion of the Gospel lives on – personal witness from officiating at memorial services.
  - D. Paul: “Watch out for this distortion of the Gospel...”
  - E. Paul: “Everything I value most from my Jewish heritage and pedigree is a very small thing compared to the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ my Lord.”
    1. “I just want to know Christ more... and to be united with Christ in all the hardships of the call, and ultimately gain the resurrection promised.”
  - F. We will each lose everything we value this side of heaven – all our material treasures will mean nothing. The one thing we will never lose is...
- III. Paul: “I haven’t reached eternity yet... there’s still work to be done for the kingdom now.”
  - A. “So there is one thing I do: I forget what is behind and press on to the finish line...”
  - B. Then he concludes, “All of you who are mature in Christ should take such a view of your life.”
- IV. None of us are there yet either. So applying this scripture passage to our lives:
  - A. First, the reminder that everything of value to us pales in comparison to knowing Christ, and the righteousness and salvation we receive from God, by grace, through our faith in Christ.
  - B. Secondly, the reminder that Christ has taken hold of us

for something – Discipleship.

1. Forgetting what lies behind... and press on!
2. A 12 step program for Christians, to get help in leaving the tough stuff behind: Celebrate Recovery.

c. Maturity in Christ is taking such a view

of our lives. Celebrate Recovery Churches in

Denver

Valley View Christian Church  
11004 Wildfield Lane, Littleton

Denver First Church of the  
Nazarene Hampden &  
Colorado Blvd., Denver

Church in the City  
1580 Gaylord Street, Denver