

**The ONE Voice**  
“From Past to Promise”  
**PASTOR TIM LAYFIELD**  
April 11, 2021

<sup>2</sup> Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. <sup>3</sup> For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, <sup>4</sup> though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

<sup>5</sup> I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. <sup>6</sup> I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

<sup>7</sup> I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. <sup>8</sup> Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ

<sup>12</sup> I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. <sup>13</sup> No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.”

**Philippians 3:2-14 NLT**

### Focusing on a negative past

- Keeps you connected to addictions
- Deepens your depression
- Feeds our insecurities

### Focusing on a positive past

- Amplifies our arrogance
- Gives us a false sense of security
- Fosters complacency. “I’ve arrived”

### Pressing On

<sup>14</sup> **I press on** to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.  
**Philippians 3:14 NLT**

### Progression towards The Promise

- From hurt to healing
- From healing to whole
- From whole to whoever/whatever

### Challenge:

- What step do you need to take to move from your past to press into the promise?
- What steps do you need to take to move from religion and towards relationship?

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[www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/love-god-others](http://www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/love-god-others)

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## Life Group Homework

For the week of April 11, 2021

### MY STORY

- 1) What do you love about spring?
- 2) If you could do anything in the world as your career, what would you do?

### QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What was your takeaway from Sunday's message?

### DIGGING DEEPER/ TAKING IT HOME

*Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.*

<sup>2</sup> Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— <sup>4</sup> though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

#### Philippians 4:1-14 ESV

- 4) What was the apostle Paul's pedigree?
- 5) What does he consider his pedigree now and why is that a big deal?

- 6) When people ask you the question "who are you?" how would you respond?
- 7) What is Paul saying we should do with our past identity? What should we do instead?
- 8) What does Paul mean by higher calling and what does that look like in our lives?

This is where it can become easy for us as believers to rattle off a list of "to do's;" but is that what Paul is talking about? I don't think so. On Easter Sunday pastor Craig reminded us that the walk with God is relationship not religion, and all of our faith and "works" flow from his leading because we are in close relationship to him.

- 9) With the previous statement above in mind, what does Paul mean "to press on" and what can that look like in your life?
- 10) What does Paul want to gain, and what does that mean?
- 11) Would your life look different if you had faith similar to Paul, if so, how?

### CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Philippians Chapter 4 and think about the following questions.

- 1) What in your past do you need to surrender and let go of to be able to press on?
- 2) What is God asking you to press on towards?
- 3) With whom can you share what God is doing in your life?