

Pressing on!!

V12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold me.

Paul is remembering his Damascus Road experience, remembering Jesus' vision and purpose for him. Paul is saying, I know that vision, and I need to press on and aim for that goal. Because if Paul doesn't he fails Jesus and frustrates that vision.

We have had our Damascus Road Experience, perhaps not as vivid as Paul's, but Jesus has a vision for every single one for us, what is that vision, share with each other, and the goals you are aiming for.

Prayer pointer:-Remember the vision in Lebanon, as Bible Society proclaims the Word.

V17 Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

There will be few preachers who would dare say 'do and I do' as well as saying 'Do as I say' But Paul could say 'listen to my words' and also 'follow my example' Paul was warning about people about who where about them and lived immoral lives and hid behind being called Christians to justify themselves. The Church in Philippi was having a tough time, in following their vision, people tried to undermine them.

Oh how similar to now!, Continually under attack, share with each other the things that are getting in your way to reach your goal, but also gain support and encouragement from v20-21 Our hope, our faith.

Prayer pointer:- Remember Nabil in Iraq, sharing Gods Word with that nation.

4v1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

All through this passage Paul oozes affection and love for his friends in Philippi, People he brought to Christ, and people he is happy with. So is Christ with us, if we do the above, if we stand fast with the Lord, as we press on!, but carry on reading, Paul says in v2 to agree and in v4 Rejoice, in the Lord always, I will say it again, Rejoice.

Prayer pointer: - Remember the people of Papua New Guinea and China, as they read Gods Word for the first time and Rejoice in it, and live in it.

We press on with our vision, may be under attack, but we have our hope, our citizenship in heaven, we have Christ, and in that we Rejoice.

Rejoice, in the Lord always, I will say it again, Rejoice!