Pressing Toward The Prize

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INTRODUCTION

- Show boating and being overconfident, losing focus, can spell disaster in running.
- He pinned these words as an aged man of God. He was in a Roman prison. His life hung in the balance.
- I'm not letting up. I'm not slowing down. I'm sprinting toward the finish line.

1 Pressing Toward the Prize: Focusing on Improvement

2 Corinthians 13:5

- If we're going to improve, we've got to see the need.
- Paul is saying, I haven't reached ultimate perfection yet. I'm not where I want to be.
- I'm still working, I'm still growing, I'm still learning, I'm still pressing on.
- If you don't see any need to improve, you're probably not going to examine yourself.
- If we fail to examine ourselves, ladies and gentlemen, we become easy prey for the devil.
- I must believe that I can improve. I must believe that I can do better.

2 I Forget the Things Which Are Behind

1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Timothy 4:16

- We can't live in the past. We can learn from the past, but we don't need to live in the past because we can't change the past.
- We can profit from it, but we can't change it. But we can control our attitude toward it.
- Forget the past. Put behind you past sins.
- Don't let something like that get in the way of your relationship with the Lord and your relationship with your church family and a brother in Christ.
- Forget past injuries by brethren. And then we could talk about past persecution.
- But Paul wasn't thinking like that. He's putting that behind. He said, I'm pressing on.

3 Reaching Forward to the Things Which Are Ahead

James 5:20; Jude 1:22; Romans 14:19

- Don't run to the tape, run through the tape. That's what this word is. That you're giving it everything you've got.
- We need to be reaching forward to the lost in our communities.
- Reach out to those that have become unfaithful. Not to forget about them, but to see if we can restore them again.
- We also need to reach to those among us that are weak.
- Then we need to reach out to the edification of the body of Christ, to the building up of the Lord's church.

- We need to reach out to the potential that is in the body of Christ.

4 I Press On

- An aged man of God in a Roman prison, pressing on. We need to hear that today. We need to press on.
- Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.
- Have you had a setback in your life? Press on. Have you lost a loved one? Press on.
- Don't give up and don't give in and don't give out. Press on.
- That, ladies and gentlemen, is what it means to press toward the prize.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Spiritually speaking, you gotta stretch and press forward and reach forward with everything that is in you and run through the finish line and press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

MY NOTES