



## INTRODUCTION

The salvation of Jesus Christ is not limited to forgiveness of sins although that is remarkable enough. Our salvation also includes the removal of guilt that often surrounds our past. (Heb. 9:13-14) Even the things we did that we thought righteous are no longer important. In last week's lesson Paul called his religious accomplishments, rubbish. Our hope is in the complete cleansing of the blood of Christ which empowers us to press on. We will encounter hardship, but we must press on. If we have future victories, we must not rest on our laurels, we must press on. We may encounter dry, desert places, but we must not remain there, we must press on. We should have the mind of the song writer who wrote, "I'm pressing on the upward way. New heights I'm gaining every day. A higher plane than I have found. Lord plant my feet on higher ground."

### Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; **but I press on**, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

<sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

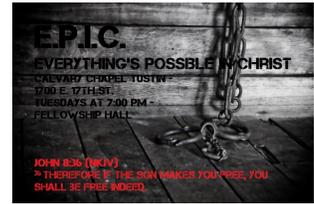
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Paul is letting the Philippian church know that no matter how spiritually advanced in this race they believe him to be, he has not crossed the finish line. He has not attained all that Christ has in store for him or his ministry. Paul is telling us that no matter how righteous we become, we still won't be perfect. We have to continue to strive to please the Father and without faith we can't (Heb. 11:6). So what do we do? We press on toward the rewards Christ has in store for the faithful few. Paul is assuring the church at Philippi and us that he hasn't already taken hold of the promises of God. He hasn't reached his goal. Paul also knows that it is very difficult to lay hold of something you want and need if your hands (mind and heart) are already full. So like Paul, we have to let go of the things that hinder us (Heb. 12:1-2). We have to let go of the guilt that haunt us because of our past. We can't change our past, but God can change our future (which was once influenced by our past) from the moment we submitted to Him. As been said many times, "When the devil reminds us of our past, we need to remind him of his future."

<sup>14</sup> **I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

Like Paul, if we are pressing on, we must be pressing on towards something. It has to be attainable and it must be worth our while. Self-gratification is shallow and won't last. Vain glory is fleeting at best. Wealth, position and power are temporary. The things of Christ are eternal. Even before we get to the goal line we can rest assured that our lives are better than ever.



We can be rest assured that though we don't have the worldly things that others may have we have something much more valuable. We have Jesus.

(1) I don't possess - houses or lands, - fine clothes or jewelry. Sorrows and cares - in this old world - my lot seems to be. But I have a Christ, - who paid the price - way back on Calvary and Christ is all, - all in all - in this world to me.

Chorus:

Yes, Christ is all, - He's everything to me  
Yes, Christ is all, - He rules the land and sea.  
Yes, Christ is all - without Him nothing could be.  
Christ is all - all in all - this world to me.

(2) There are some folk - who look and long - for this world's riches. There are some folk - who look for power, - position, too. But I have a Christ - all in my life, - this makes me happy. For Christ is all, - all and all - this world to me.

Chorus:

(3) Yes, Christ is all, - means more to me - than this world's riches. He is my sight, - my guiding light - through pathless seas. Yes, it's mighty nice - to know the Christ - who will my friend be. Yes, Christ is all, - all and all - this world to me.