

Philippians: Finding Joy in a Broken World

The Joy of Pressing On

Read the following verses: Philippians 3:8-16

Examining the Text:

1. Based upon 3:8-11, what is the object (“this”, “it”, “that”) in 3:12 that Paul says he has not obtained and for which he is pursuing?
2. What two actions does Paul mention for pressing on to the goal?
3. Since all believers in Christ will be resurrected from the dead, (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16), what is it that we are all pressing on to gain?

Digging Deeper:

1. Consider Joseph (Jacob’s son) as an example of someone who “forgot past traumatic experiences.” Joseph called his first son “forget” (Manasseh) and his second son “fruitful” (Ephraim) in Gen. 41:50-52. What can we learn from Joseph’s experience about forgetting? In what sense did he forget? In what sense did he press forward?

The Heart of the Matter:

1. Are there any events or items from your past that you feel are hindering your progress because of lingering bitterness or regret?
2. In what areas of your life do you feel you need to progress and be fruitful?