

Being Focused in a Blurry World

Philippians 3:10-21

The **FORWARD** Focus: Pressing On.

- 📖 Philippians 3:10–11 (NIV84) “I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death,¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”
- 📖 Philippians 3:12–14 (NIV84) “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 of me.¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

How to be Forward Focused:

1. The present is **here**; **embrace** it.
2. The past is **over**; **leave** it.
3. The future is **bright**; **reach** for it.

- 📖 Hebrews 12:2–3 (NIV84) “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

The **INWARD** Focus: Thinking Maturely.

- 📖 Philippians 3:15 (NIV84) “All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.”
- 📖 Philippians 3:16 (NIV84) “Only let us live up to what we have already attained.”
- 📖 James 4:17 (NIV84) “Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.”

The **OUTWARD** Focus: Finding Godly Examples.

- 📖 Philippians 3:17 (NIV84) “Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.”
- 📖 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV84) “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”
- 📖 Philippians 3:18–19 (NIV84) “For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.”
- 📖 John 5:23b (NIV84) “...He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent Him.”
- 📖 Romans 5:7–10 (NIV84) “Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.⁸ But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through Him!¹⁰ For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!”

The **UPWARD** Focus: Thinking Heavenly.

- 📖 Philippians 3:20–21 (NIV84) “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.”
- 📖 Colossians 3:2–3 (NIV84) “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”
- 📖 2 Corinthians 5:1–2 (NLT) “For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.² We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing.”

Digging Deeper: Are your hangups from the past hampering your future? You messed up; now what? What would it look like if you stopped allowing the mistakes you’ve made to sideline you from the life that God has for you? Is HIS blood enough to cover our mistakes or not? Do you trust Christ more or less today than you used to? Why the change?

