

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

March 18, 2018

Press On

by Frank Himmel

Paul's outlook toward eternal life was:

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 3:13-14)

What do you do when you have met a challenge or achieved some goal in the Lord's service? Press on! Find another challenge or set another goal. It's no time to stop now.
(This is the setting of our text.)

What do you do when you are disappointed in yourself—when you have succumbed to temptation, or when you did not handle some situation as well as you wished? Press on! Confess your wrong, try to learn something from it, then continue to do your best going forward, just as Peter did after denying the Lord.

What do you do when you are discouraged by deteriorating conditions around you, by times when the ungodly seem to be getting the upper hand, when

you find yourself asking as some did the Psalmist, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3). Press on! Noah "was a righteous man, blameless in his time" (Genesis 6:9). We can live that way, too, and be lights in the world.

What do you do when your Bible study with a non-Christian did not result in a conversion? Press on! Look for someone else to study with. Not even Jesus or His apostles converted everyone they taught! Our work is to teach. The gospel is God's power to save (Romans 1:16), and it will have its effect on open, honest hearts.



What do you do when others do not seem to appreciate your work? Perhaps not enough people have said thank you. Maybe some have taken advantage of you by giving you more than your "fair share" of a workload. Press on! Continue to do your best. In every circumstance, the Lord is the one we work for. He is the ultimate rewarder (Colossians 3:24).

What do you do when one problem follows another, when despite doing what is right you keep having troubles? Press on! Peter described life's trials as the testing of our faith by fire (1 Peter 1:7), similar to the testing of precious metals. He urged us to keep focusing on the Lord and "obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls" (v. 9). ■

Three Important Facts

by Frank Himmel

The Bible says:

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

At least three things are clear from this text.

1) *People who practice these sins are not going to heaven.* Contextually, this warning occurs between paragraphs condemning Christians for covetousness, expressed in suing one another (vv. 1-8), and fornication (vv. 12-20). Whoever you are, such conduct stands between you and heaven. And this list is representative, not exhaustive.

2) *Self-deception does not change the fact that people who practice these sins are not going to heaven.* The Corinthians evidently argued that fornication was okay, that it had no moral implications. Doubtless they had some similar rationalization for their lawsuits. But neither their Christianity nor God’s grace nor societal approval nor any other factor excused their

sinful behavior. And no amount of self-proclaimed righteousness could whitewash these wrongs.

3) *People can and must abandon these sins.* Paul notes that this kind of conduct characterized them before they became Christians: “such *were* some of you.” Now they were changed: in Christ they were washed (cleansed), sanctified (set apart), and justified (pronounced innocent). That changed condition and status must be accompanied by a change in conduct to be valid, “deeds appropriate to repentance” (Acts 26:20). No one has to live this way; it is our choice.

Are you cleansed in Christ? ■



Singing

directed by
Tim Stevens

Sunday, March 25
3:00 p.m.

| Service Leaders for the Week | | |
|---|---|--|
| | Sunday | Wednesday |
| GREETER SONG LEADER OPENING PRAYER LORD’S SUPPER BREAD CUP CONTRIBUTION PRAYER SERMON/INVITATION CLOSING PRAYER | Mark Clifton Sam Walters Greg Winget Albert Lee Harrison Adam Wilson Bruce Hollander Frank Himmel Bruce Williams | Josh Baucom Sam Walters Singing TBD |