

The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

www.collinsville-troycoc.org

(618) 667-6708



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Press on Towards the Goal!

Renn Ferguson

It is this time of year that many people begin setting goals for the upcoming year. Some perhaps want to lose weight, start exercising and get healthier. Others may have career goals, maybe they are up for a promotion and they want to secure that position in their work. Others perhaps have the goal of buying a home, getting into college or any number of things. While all of those things are good and we certainly should set goals for ourselves and for our lives, there is one goal that must come before all else.



Paul spoke of this goal in Philippians 3:12-15, “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.”

Notice two things about this passage. First, Paul said that he had not already obtained the goal. Why is that important? Paul understood that he had not yet reached the end. A goal that has been achieved is a goal for which we no longer strive. That goal of heaven was ever before Paul while on this earth. Therefore, while he was here he made every effort to reach that goal (1 Corinthians 9:25-27). This is the same mentality with which we must approach our ambition of heaven. While we are here it has not been reached, it is not yet finished. We must continue to press on toward the goal for our entire lives. Only then, will we reach it (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Second, notice that Paul said he forgot what lied behind him. What does that mean? Well, primarily it means that he did not rest on his past accomplishments. Paul had done more for the church than any other (1 Corinthians 15:10). Yet, he did not use that for an excuse to kick his feet up and no longer work. We would say that he did not rest on his laurels. This again is the mindset with which we must approach this goal. No matter what we have done or accomplished we are not done until we leave this earth.

As we are thinking about the various goals for the new year remember the ultimate goal: heaven. Press on toward the goal!