

“PRESSING ON”

Gospel Meeting, Oct 20-22
with John Cannon

Who “Knows?”



God is the
Creator of all
things, including
mankind
(Genesis 1:1-2:1;
Exodus 20:11;
Acts 17:26-28).

**Have you made
an input to the
“IDEA BOX”?**

Although he desires to “know” Christ, he has not reached flawlessness in this area of his life. Do we believe we have? The Apostle Paul had this to write to the church: “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. 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, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14 NKJV).

Are others claiming a kind of “perfection?” Do we do the same? Whatever is *claimed*, for Paul it will always be a constant pursuit... never arriving until he crosses the final finish line. In verse 12 he shares, “not that I have *already attained*” - attained what Paul? The context points us to the discussion of “knowing Christ,” “gaining Him,” or “becoming perfect.” Is Paul using the terminology of those who oppose Christ? Philippians 3:15 says, “let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.” What about God “revealing” to them a different way of thinking? Will God “straighten out” those who are not mature? Is he saying “If your thinking isn’t quite mature enough, be certain that God will lead you to find the truth as you grow?” Are you and I willing to be lead by God and grow? Please notice that the *manner* of “revealing” is not discussed, so we should not presume too much about His “revealing.”

When Paul writes “press on” it is a zealous pursuit (the same word was already used in verse 6 as the way Paul once pursued...he actively “pursued” or “persecuted” the church). Thus, he may want to “forget those things which are behind” and let the past be in the past. Could we benefit from this way of thinking?

His desire is to “lay hold” because Christ has already “laid hold” of him. Recall the conversion of Saul on the Damascus road (see Acts 9). On that road he was turned around and from that point onward he went a different direction. Yet, Paul does not *claim* he has completely “laid hold.” There is athletic imagery of runners not looking over their shoulder but always straining and stretching forward toward the finish line. Will we do the same? Will we “lay hold?”

There is a “goal” or “mark” to be attained. Press on with aim and purpose! There is a “prize” to the victor in this contest (see 1 Corinthians 9:24). The “goal” is our objective, while the “prize” is God’s gift.

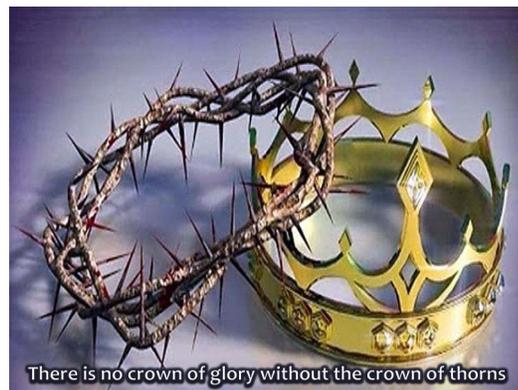
God has called to us IN Christ, inviting us to come up to Him. Will we seek to “know” Him better or not?

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us!



There is no crown of glory without the crown of thorns

Bday/Anniv Lunch: MOVED to the 3rd

Sunday (10/20) ... for October

Friday Bible Study: 7 to 8 PM;

Special DVD presentation for our learning...

NMCCH: SOUPS! Cream of

Mushroom or Cream of Chicken.

Check expiration date! The truck arrives Friday (10/18).

Gospel Meeting: October 13-16 at

Grand Avenue with William

Donaldson, “Moving Forward with God.” 7 PM each week day.

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