

Keep Moving towards the Goal

Philippians 3:12-4:1

What stood out to you from the sermon? What questions do you have about the passage?

Verses 12-16

Why is Paul concerned to explain that he hasn't yet arrived at the goal?

- why would this be necessary?

- what implications does it have for us and our Christian walk?

Paul explains, he hasn't yet arrived at his goal, instead he presses on toward the goal (v12 and 14).

- What is the goal?

- Why does Paul press on and strain towards the goal? What implications does this have for us and our Christian walk?

What is surprising about Paul saying 'all of us who are mature' in verse 15?

(hint: the Greek word translated 'mature' in v15 is the same root word as the one translated 'arrived at my goal' in v12)

- What is Paul really saying here in v15a?

- How do you think v15b-16 relate to what Paul has just said in v12-15a?

In the sermon (<https://www.chatswoodbaptist.com.au/sermons/keep-moving-forwards/>) Matt shared three different illustrations or metaphors to describe the need to keep 'pressing on' towards maturity in Christ: 1) riding a bike, 2) sharks swimming, and 3) mountain climbing.

- What is the common, overarching element / purpose of the illustrations?

- What different points are made by them?

- What resonates most with you personally? Why?

What's the significance of the phrases 'for which Christ Jesus took hold of me' (v12) and 'for which God has called me' (v14)? How does this change the nature of our 'pressing on'?

Verses 17 – 4:1

Why is it important to proactively follow the example of people like Paul?

How do you think this encouragement relates to Verses 12-16?

What does it mean for someone to 'live as an enemy of the cross of Christ'?

➔ Who / what are the top 5 influences on your thinking and behaviour? Are they helping or hindering you from 'pressing on'?

What can you do to 'keep your eyes on those who live' as examples of Jesus?

What does it mean to say our 'citizenship is in heaven'? Why is it so important to remind ourselves of this fact regularly?

How does Paul describe our hope as citizens of heaven? How does this hope help you to 'press on' towards the goal?

How are we to 'stand firm in the Lord'?

➔ Share how others could pray for you to stand firm in the Lord over the coming week