

3 October 2021

## Pressing on! – Philippians 3:8-21

[Home groups following the discipleship course may prefer to use the questions in the course booklet]

***How do we rediscover our vitality as a Christian, if we have got discouraged lately?***

### ***Look differently at the things around you***

<sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

*Question 1:* What things around you is God specifically calling you look at differently?

*Question 2:* Paul aspires to share in the sufferings of Christ (v10); why? Do you?

### ***Look for godly examples***

<sup>17</sup> Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

*Question 3:* Look back – who was a godly example and inspiration to you?

*Question 4:* How can you be a godly example, encouragement and inspiration to someone else?

### ***Look up at the prize!***

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

*Question 5:* How does a right view of the prize help us press on?

### ***A Prayer***

Dear loving Heavenly Father, thank you for that you are a God who gives strength to the weary, whose mercies are new every morning, and great is your faithfulness. Help me to look at the things around me differently, seeking out the fellowship of godly example, and looking up to the prize which is ours in Christ, and with this renewed vision, press on. In the power of your Spirit and for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.