

# JOY CHOOSE JOY

Forgetting &  
Pressing On

Philippians  
3:12-16

<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.

### Thinking Through the Text:

1. What is “this” that Paul had not already obtained?
2. How could Paul—an ordinary human being—possibly “make” resurrection from the dead “his own”?
3. In what way had Paul “forgotten” what lies behind?
4. Just to make sure, what was “the goal”?
5. Why does thinking “this way” require maturity on our part?

### Making It Personal:

- ❖ Joy takes “forgetting” what sorts of things?
  - ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 12:1; Phil 3:3-8)
  - ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ which cling so closely (Heb 12:1)
  - ▶ An idealized version of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Num 11:4-6)
  - ▶ My illusions of \_\_\_\_\_ (Eccl 1:2)
  - ▶ My conceptions of what \_\_\_\_\_ is all about (Eccl 12:13-14)
- ❖ Practically speaking, what does it look like to “strain forward” to what lies ahead?

“Only let us hold true to what we have attained.” (Phil 3:16)

- \_\_\_\_\_ in the gospel (1:5)
- God doing a good \_\_\_\_\_ in us (1:6; 2:13)
- Living as partakers of \_\_\_\_\_ (1:7)

