

**March 20, 2020**

**Press On Toward Jesus**

**Read Scripture: Philippians 3: 4b-14**

<sup>4b</sup> If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, 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 is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

This scripture reveals to me that we should beware of the confidence in one's own flesh.

I consider all things lost for the excellent knowledge of Christ.

We can't please Christ through only obeying the law, but by our faith that Jesus is Lord. I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection but I know that I may have to experience this through the suffering unto death and resurrection that this world brings.

I lay hold and press forward in Christ Jesus.

I don't count myself anything special but I do forget my past and reach ahead and press toward Christ.

**Debra Beckette**