

CHARIS CHRISTIAN CENTRE
SERMON NOTES

DATE : 15 JANUARY 2012
SPEAKER : REV. LAWRENCE YAP
TOPIC : PRESSING ON TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Scripture Passage: **Philippians 3:12-14.**

Theme: **“Pressing On to the Next Level”**

Tommy Tenney – “One day of favor can be worth more than a lifetime of labor.”

What made Paul to be arguably, the most successful of the apostles or disciples of Jesus?

3 Attitudes:-

1. **“A Quest”**
2. **“A Press”**
3. **“An Asses”**

What are these?

1. “A Quest”

Phil.4:12 – “Not that I have already obtained.”

Why was Paul saying that? Certainly, because how can mortals possibly learn all about the immortals? Definitely we will still be learning till Jesus come.

There must always be an attitude of wanting to learn and you will indeed learn new things....the **“Learning Quotient”**

The current needs (illness; crimes; uncertainties etc) should compel us to seek Him more.

“The size of your hunger is the volume of His Glory.”

2. “A Press”

Phil.4:12b – “I press on to take hold of that which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”

It means that **Paul understood that Jesus took hold of his life for a purpose and he is pressing on to take hold of that.**

What is your purpose of life?

A story was told of a greyhound racing dog. Until a few years ago, the greyhounds were euthanized when they got too old to race. They were no good for breeding and too old to race. A group of ladies started an adoption agency whose sole purpose was to find good homes for these dogs. A man’s daughter adopted one of the greyhounds. When he visited her home at Thanksgiving, she showed her father the beautiful greyhound she had adopted. After dinner, he went to the backyard to visit the dog. He asked the dog, “Greyhound, how are you doing? Did you ever race in Miami? Did you ever win? The stately greyhound responded, “Life is good!” I have a big yard to play in, three square meals a day and an owner who loves me.” He continued, “Yes, I ran in Miami and won five times!” The man asked, “Did you get too old to run?” The stately greyhound responded, “No. I quit.” The man asked further, “Why did you quit?” The greyhound called him a little closer and said, “I found out the rabbit wasn’t real.”

Many “rabbits” in the world are not real, so stop chasing after them!

3. “An Asses”

Phil. 4:13 – “Brothers, I do not have consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.”

Paul did an ‘assessment’

There were many things that he did but he has come to the focus when he said, **“But one thing I do.”**

-he has come to the conclusion that he need to assess his priorities; the need to focus his energy, time and values...

Every one of us has to come to that place of assessing what is that “one thing that you may do and do it well!?”

An expert on the subject of time management was speaking to a group of business students. After speaking to them for a while, he said, “Okay, it’s time for a quiz.” He set a one gallon, wide mouthed jar on the table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen tennis ball sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time inside the jar. When the jar was filled and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, “Is this jar full?” Everyone in the class said, “Yes.” Really? He said. Then he reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of small gravel into the jar and shook it, causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces and asked the group once more, “Is the jar full?” By this time the class was starting to catch on... “Probably not,” one of them said. “Good!” he replied. Then he reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in and it filled all the spaces between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked, “Is this jar full?” No! the class shouted. Again he said, “Good!” The he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked back at the class and asked, “What is the point of this illustration?” One eager student raised his hand and said, “The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit something more into it!” “No”, the speaker replied, “that is not the point...The truth if this illustration teaches us is this:- If you don’t put the big rocks in first, you’ll never get them in at all.”

What are the ‘big rocks’ in your life? What are your priorities?

Matthew 6:33.....

In order for Paul to reach what is ahead, he also mentioned another truth.....**“Forgetting what is behind and straining what is ahead.”**

What has he got to “forget”?

2 things:-

a. Past accomplishments

One must not rest on our past laurels, and then not keep ourselves afresh in Him...

It spurs us; it must not cause us to pause too long.

“Ichabod” is one word we need to take note of (1 Sam 4:21)

b. Past Mistakes

We must not allow our past to keep us from our future.