

**Sermon on 15/1/2012 – PRESSING ON TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

*Please read the following summary of the sermon before the discussion.*

**Phillipians 3:12-14**

**12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, 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, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**

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:-**

**“A Quest.”**

**“A Press.”**

**“An Assess.”**

What are these?

**“A Quest.”**

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

-Why was Paul saying that – when he is so qualified and experienced?

-How can a mortal possibly learned all about the immortal?

-Till Jesus comes, definitely we will still be learning.

-There must always be an attitude of wanting to learn and you will indeed learn new things if we have the “Learning Quotient”. There must be a passion of wanting to learn.

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

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

Do you quest for more?

**“A Press.”**

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

It means here 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?

Illustrate: 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! Your purpose of life is more than just the material possessions!**

**"An Assess."**

**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 to "this one thing."

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!?"

Illustrate: 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, its time for a quiz." He set a one gallon, wide mouthed jar on the table in front of him. The 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 to the 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. The he reached under the table and bought 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 pout 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 s 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?**

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 he has to forget:-**

**Past accomplishments.**

-One must not rest on our past laurels, and then not keeping ourselves afresh in Him...  
-It spurs us, but it must not cause us to pause too long.

**Past Mistakes.**

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

**Application Questions for sermon 15/1/2012**

There are 3 attitudes, to pursue the journey of pressing on to the next level.  
Let's discuss the points presented:-

**Application Questions**

There are 3 attitudes, to pursue the journey of pressing on to the next level.  
Let's discuss the points presented:-

1. **"A Quest."**

**Phil.4:12 – "Not that I have already obtained."**

- a. Why is it that for some Christians, the longer we are in the faith, the greater the tendency for us to slow down or even to stop learning and pursuing after God?

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- b. Why we should not stop learning and pursuing God especially during uncertain times like this. Why do we need to hunger for God? Discuss

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2. **"A Press."**

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

The pursuit of our faith can elevate to another level if we diligently 'press in' and 'press on' towards God's calling in our life.

For some we need to 'press in'(depth) and 'press on' (move) within our relationship with family, reaching out to colleagues, current ministry that we are involved in or in reaching out to others consistently. I believe we might have experienced the call for more effort to move to the next level.

What are some of our challenges or struggles in the following areas:-

- a. Our Relationship with family members. What do we need to press in more?

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- b. Reaching out to our colleagues/friends. What do we need to press in more?

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c. Our service to God.

3. **“An Assess.”**

**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’ of all that he was doing. We too need to assess.

**Gleneagles Hospital KL Neuro psychologist Dr Nivashinie Mohan said, “On average, people spend about an hour each day on the website. But if you are cancelling plans with friends and family so you can spend the time on Facebook is a clear sign that you are addicted.” (Star Newspaper 20/1/2012)**

- a. Could we be spending more time on our hobbies; PDAs; sms; Facebook; television or computers rather than meaningful time with families and friends; reading God’s Word; or praying. Could you be one of those “victims”? From your evaluation, how serious is this problem?

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- b. Let each person share what are the 3 top priorities that you would like to spend more time to do for this year of 2012.
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**PRAYER**

1. **Pray for church congregation**

that they hunger and thirst for more of God’s word and develop consistent daily devotion so as to be strong to meet daily challenges.

2. **Pray for our Nation – coming election**

Pray that God’s sovereign will prevail in the midst of the preparation. Pray for fair election & God’s choice candidate and party to be elected.

3. **Pray for children church ministry.** Pray that the children will be receptive to the weekly lessons and activity. That God will provide more teachers and helpers in this ministry. Commit Pastor Abby Lee & the team of teachers unto the Lord.

4. Break into groups of 3’s to pray for koinos members to set the right priorities for 2012. That the Lord will help us overcome every struggle.