



GOOD MORNING SAINTS

Golden Nugget

"DO WE EVER ARRIVE?"

"...Not that I have already attained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on..."

Paul talks about his life in Philippians 3:12 — 4:1. If the apostle Paul was still on his way in life, what about us? How often we get impatient that we haven't "arrived" in life. In our minds and hearts we have certain external symbols that mean we've "made it." It may be a certain car, a certain job, a certain spouse. It may be a certain bank account or a certain vacation.

But you know what, I've talked to countless people who are well off by the world's standards, yet it doesn't seem to be enough. Life is a **JOURNEY**, not a destination on this side eternity. Paul realized this and was more focused on the right process in his life, he was more intense about **how he journeyed**. Get the journey right and the destination will take care of itself.

So what can we do to get our lives in shape to make this journey rewarding?

Paul gives us three things to do:

1. Forget what is behind

I've had some losses and problems in the past, but I would just stuff 'em down and went on with my life. Folks, Paul is not telling us to just "stuff down" our problems. Problems that are stuffed down tend to resurface. And when they do resurface it's not a gentle thing. Paul is not telling us to be in denial of our life experiences. But so many of us won't let

go of the past. We keep the wound open by constantly going back and picking at the scab. Don't get me wrong, we should seek healing in our broken places. But when we've done what we can to deal with the past, then we need to move on. Grieve it and leave it. Let's close the door to those past issues, good or bad, let's leave them behind and get on with living today.

2. Reach for what is ahead

Maintain forward motion. That's important. I realize there comes a time, after we've done all we should **STAND!** And that's fine. But until we have done all-we should be making forward motion. **STEADY PROGRESS ON THE RIGHT ROAD** is what we're after.

Every morning I hoist my full frame out the door and walk about a ½ mile, some times a full mile. I don't run. I don't even walk fast. On challenging days, when my body is in rebellion, it's hardly more than a shuffle. But I do it every morning. It helps me through the day. Always forward, on the right road. But how do we know the right road? God's Word, prayer, and the wise teaching of God's people are all good places to start. That's why He gave us the church and Christian relationships. None of us get to the destination alone. There are days where we can't shuffle without a friend to give us a friendly nudge in the back side. We all need a shufflin' partner every once and awhile. Did you ever notice that Paul nearly always had some other folks with him on his journeys? He made sure he had shufflin' partners!

3. Press on toward the goal

We must have a destination. Let's not beat ourselves up for not arriving. You see, a lot of folks live in the past. They stagnate and feel guilty because they haven't gotten where they want in life. Others try to live in the glory days of the past. That's just as bad. But then they don't have a clear picture of where they want to go, so they go nowhere. You probably know the saying: "If you head out for nowhere in

particular you are bound to get there." That is, nowhere in particular is where you will end up!

So we need to have Godly goals to go after. Ones that are bigger than our dilemmas, our problems, and ourselves. We need Godly goals! Godly goals that only a Big God can fulfill. We need something that draws us onward and upward, something to set our sights on. Better yet, we need our sights set on Someone Greater. For those who have yet to complete their "Blood Covenants", please pray for His wisdom, His insight, His guidance, His power, and His strength to help you identify that "something" that compels you and then go for it. No matter the meager appearance of your resources-use what you have in your hands!

More than likely you probably already know these three steps. They may even sound simplistic. But when you get down to the bottom of most complex problems, there are usually some very simple solutions that help you put together a plan to solve them. One at a time, eye on the goal, going through the simple steps, and one day the problem is solved or the goal is achieved.

Have you ever wondered how Paul was able to bear up under stress, persecution, and pressure? He learned to put the past into the past by forgetting what was behind him. Second, he was always looking forward toward what was ahead and kept on shufflin' toward it. Third, he had a goal, a mission, and he pressed on to that goal. For Paul, that goal was "the mark of the high calling." You know what, I think if we keep at it, we may just find ourselves in the same place with Paul.