

## ***Looking Forward - Pressing On***

It's the first Lord's Day of the New Year! That is always an exciting time. Our culture uses the images of an old man often called "Father Time" to represent the outgoing year and that of a baby to signify the incoming new year. What great images for us to consider as we start yet another trip around the sun!

To the church at Philippi, Paul taught a very similar concept, but it didn't start with a new calendar year, it started with today - whatever the day may have been. His words speak of a great divider, not numbers that change on a bank check, but lives that change on our knees.

In Philippians 3:13-14, Paul shows us this "past vs. future" scenario:

*<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup>Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching 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.*

Notice how clearly Paul states the dividing line we call, "the present,"

*...but the one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead...."*

As those who strive to walk *"in His steps*, we see our marching orders! In fact, Paul goes on in verse 15 to teach us to have this same attitude! Wow, God, through Paul's pen, beautifully teaches us to draw a line in the sand concerning yesterday and tomorrow, then forget yesterday and *press on toward what lies ahead!*

As usual, God's plan delivers what we really seek, *"...the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* May the new year, and each new day bless you with the peace that only God can deliver!

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