



# Sermon Growth Guide

**November 15, 2020**

**Give Thanks – For Life Eternal**

**Philippians 3:7-14**

**Key Verse:** Philippians 3:14

“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

**Big Idea:** Press on toward life eternal.

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## Foundations

In our third week in the book of Philippians, we give thanks for life eternal. Pastor Tim asks three questions as we press on toward life eternal: (1) Have you met Jesus? (2) Have you suffered the loss of all things? and (3) Have you felt the power of resurrection?

Have you met Jesus? Can you sing with joy the hymn, “Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus, / Just to trust His cleansing blood / And in simple faith to plunge me / ‘Neath the healing, cleansing flood!”? Do you know it takes a personal relationship with the living Christ to really know Him?

Have you suffered the loss of all things? What does this mean? This week we’re all invited into a special time of self-reflection. Do we value Christ as “the pearl of great price” or is Jesus one of many gods we half-elevate in our buffet of earthly treasures?

And have you felt the power of resurrection? Do you wake up each day knowing that you belong to the One who has conquered death? Do you take each step knowing that because Jesus lives, you too shall live?

Gathered together with your circle, in-person or online, open your time of study in prayer. Ask the Spirit to guide and guard your thinking and growing.

## Understanding God’s Word

In verses 7-9, Paul talks about “counting everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus.” Here in the text, what does it mean to count everything as loss? What do we know about Paul’s context?

In verses 10 and 11, regarding “resurrection” and “suffering,” how does Paul unpack the idea of “knowing Christ”?

In verses 12-14, how many times do you find the phrase, “I press on”? As a group, unpack the theology in these three verses.

## Applying God’s Word

Referring back to what your circle discussed regarding verses 7-9, host a conversation on how you can personally grow in your ability to “count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus.” What might the Holy Spirit be inviting you to let go of even right now so that you can better hold on to Christ and Christ alone?

## Witnessing God’s Word

How do you imagine your life will look like to those around you as to live as one who “counts everything as loss for the sake of knowing Christ”? How can you share your love of Christ to someone who needs it most this week? Pray together that your time together will result in the saving of many lives.