

Saturday & Sunday, December 16 & 17, 2017 - "Press On, Press In, Press Through" - Martin Sanders

Key Passages: Philippians 3:7-11

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- For some this is a year we don't want to repeat, and for others a year that we don't want to end
- The end of the year is a good time to develop our focus for the next one
- Philippians 3:7-11
 - Paul gives his background (his personal story)
 - His perspective on life, faith, loving God
 - We have to take into account the personal factors
 - From our life/story
 - From our values
- Paul communicates with a great amount of passion in these verses
 - He is pushing towards the goal
 - Everything else is GARBAGE compared to just knowing Christ (not knowing about Him but KNOWING HIM)
- 3 actions from the passage
 - 1) Press On
 - Almost as if Paul is saying "I'm not going to stay where I am"
 - Martin told a story about a hike he took: One vantage point was good but a little further and little higher it was better
 - The surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ ("THIS ONE THING")
 - 2) Press In (this is the tough one)
 - Both soft and intense (both resting and active)
 - Expanding our capacity to be loved and to love (Pressing into the Father's love)
 - The False Bottom
 - We have to find out what we're not aware of
 - We have to get to the depths of our hearts (either TREASURES or SECRETS)
 - "Don't go to the Father of your heart with something simple in 2018" - Martin Sanders
 - 3) Pressing Through
 - What God has next
 - It will take longer than we want and be harder than we thought
 - FULL COURT PRESS → whatever it takes → this is my destiny
 - "No one has seen the best of who you might become, not God, not you, not the people who love you" - Martin Sanders
- A call and a need for a ONE WORD FOCUS for this next year
 - Something that we can focus on to grow
 - to see what God has for us next

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What are you pursuing with all that you have? (answer as honestly as you are willing to answer)
2. What is God calling you to count as GARBAGE compared to knowing Christ?
3. What is God calling you to do the most in this season: Press On, Press In, or Press through?
4. If you're willing share what you think God is asking you to make your ONE WORD FOCUS for 2018?
5. How is God asking you to expand your prayers/dreams? Are there specific prayers/dreams that He is asking you be engaged with?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Psalm 72 Tues: Luke 1:5-25 Wed: Luke 1:26-38 Thurs: Luke 1:39-58 Fri: Luke 1:59-80