

Moving Forward - cont.

the same rule, let us be of the same mind." No matter how far along in your walk with God you are, Christians must be perfectly united.

Again, Paul emphasizes the fellowship we are to share in the Lord and among one another in our teaching, mind, and judgment in I Corinthians 1:9-10, "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

There's only one direction to go. If we are not perfectly joined together, then someone is heading in the wrong direction.

In driving or in life, when we go backwards, we must straighten out to go forward. We don't stay in reverse; otherwise we will never reach our destination. So, keep moving forward; and remember to be careful where you park along the way.

- Chris Kramer -

Sentence Sermons

- Living from hand to mouth is not so bad, if it's God's hand.
- Don't just pray for what you want; pray that you will be what God wants.
- A small tongue can destroy a big person.
- Don't just count your years; make your years count.
- Love covers a multitude of sins.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Guest Article: Keep Moving Forward

Several years ago the reverse transmission went out on a van I owned. While most people would not be able to be without reverse, I had become used to it, as well as a little prideful that I was so good driving without it. I was careful where I parked, and I made sure I never put myself in a compromising situation. Of course, I had to learn the hard way.

I got stuck in the mountains once because I misjudged the incline of the place I wanted to park. After several people tried to help me with a tug-o-war to move the van, I just decided to drive down an embankment, dodge several boulders in the process, and bring it back up to the road. A lot of people exclaimed, "Why don't you get it fixed?"

Sure, I had a couple of inconveniences, but I remembered a statement that Walt Disney once made about his company and their goals for the future. He said, "We will keep moving forward." Notwithstanding the current moral deficiency of the company today, Disney has grown to a powerful entity in our world. They have certainly lived up to the philosophy "keep moving forward." Not only a good philosophy in life, but a sound Biblical principal as

stated in Philippians 4. Let's look at a few of the principles that we can apply to not only our physical life, but as the Apostle Paul emphasizes, our spiritual growth.

1. Press on to the goal - v.12, "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me."

Many people judge perfection by human standards. Because one does not live up to the standard of "perfection," we tend to use the excuse that we are not perfect, so God needs to accept my flaws. And yet, we are made perfect in Christ.

I can only attain the perfection I so long for with Christ, not without. I have seen many people put off obedience to the Lord because they want to be perfect first. That's not going to happen. Jesus gives us the only perfect goal that we can strive for, and that is the completeness we find in God - Matthew 5:48 - "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

2. Don't look back - v.13, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead."

We learn from the past, but woe to the man who dwells in it. We assume that Lot's wife longed for her past, and she became a pillar of salt for looking back (Luke 17:32). Our walk along the narrow way (Matt. 7:13) requires us to look ahead. Colossians 3:2 says that are to set our minds, or look to things above, not the things of the earth.

3. Christ is our forward goal - v.14, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Sure, everyone wants a "crown" and a home in Heaven. In our previous point, Colossians 3:2 reminded us of the direction we are to be looking. Verse 1 of that same passage reminds us of who is there at the end, and that is Christ.

What greater prize can we attain than fellowship with Him? If we want to see the Lord someday, we need to be looking to Him today through faith, confession, repentance, and baptism into Christ.

4. Stand united in your goal - v.16 "Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by