

II Corinthians 5:17 Old is gone – new is come

Fix your thoughts on . . . Putting into practice and the peace of God will be with you. Phil 4:8-9

Have not reached perfection Phil 3:12-14  
I keep working

Forgetting the past

Looking forward to what lies ahead

I strain to reach the end of the race

Letting go of the past – either resting on our accomplishments, pedigree etc. or being held back by our failures and guilt.

“I would grasp that for which Christ grasped me” American Rev. Jesus had grasped him for a purpose, now Paul is grabbing onto that purpose Jesus had a dream for him. Every one of us has been grasped by Jesus for a purpose, a dream of what we can become – we have a purpose. To do this we must forget the past

Israelites held onto things from Egypt – food, security,  
apprehend as well as pursue

I am pressing on (continuous present tense)

Press on – leaning into the eye is leading the body

A high calling – not of this world

Telios – perfect adequacy for a particular purpose, mature in mind, qualified in a subject, in reference to sacrifice-without blemish,

Focus on doing good not feeling good.

Galatians 5:16: "If you're guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self indulgence."

Ever been in the wrong place, at the wrong time, doing the wrong thing? Let me tell you about mine . . . “If I get out of here, I’m leaving . . .” contrasted w/ Paul & Silas singing

Human thinking	Godly thinking
Ignore it	<b>Recognize</b> there is a problem
Deny & Cover it up	<b>Acknowledge</b> it to God
Blame another	<b>Confess</b> to another
Change everything	Make <b>one</b> change at a time
Change the rest of your life	Change <b>today</b>
Wait until you feel like it	Take <b>action</b> first
Exert Willpower	Use <b>God's</b> power
Must be perfect	Emphasize <b>progress</b>

Jesus endured because of joy set before Him – Heb 12:2  
 Where is He now? Place of highest honor

Keeping our mind on the goal – end in mind

What slows us down in our race??? Attitude, sin, wrong thinking, doubt,

Imagine what life could be like – not the winning the Publishers Clearing House or lottery but what your life would be like if you responded with the attitude of Jesus, had confidence in God, weren't tied to the past

**Intro:** Have you ever been in Wrong place, at wrong time, doing the wrong thing  
– my story - my reaction Contrast with Paul – singing in prison

**I. Old is gone, new is come.** II Cor. 5:17

Tomorrow begins 2007. What is going to make 2007 different than 2006 for you?

A. What life has been like in 2006

Describe –

- Loss of loved one
- Job change / passed over for promotion
- Your child has disappointed you
- Financial strain

B. What your life can be like in 2007

Imagine what life could be like – not the winning the Publishers Clearing House or lottery but what your life would be like if you responded with the attitude of Jesus, had confidence in God, and weren't tied to the past.

Examples of a changed life:

- Dr. Gomez – border crossing (bless them)
- Clara – I've still got my hands, there is a lot I can do
- Imagine: husband w/ wife
- w/ parents
- job
- w/ kids

**II. How can my 2007 be different**

A. Forget what is behind Phil 3:12-14

- 1) Accomplishments – ex.: football team
  - 2) Hurts, disappointments, betrayals
  - 3) Fears
  - 4) Failures
  - 5) Sin – guilt  
(you may need to write them down as well)  
A process (forgetting)
- Hebrews 12

**Practical Steps:** 1. Write it on a corner of the bulletin or pew card – put it in offering throw it away on your way out. Take it home, go out in the back yard and burn it. Run it through your shredder. 2. Confess it to someone. Ask them to pray for you.

- B. Change thinking Romans 12:2 NIV (Renewing your mind)
  - NLT (changing the way you think)
  - Fixing our thoughts on positive Phil 4:8
  - Take Jesus as our example of responding to adversity
  - Taking thoughts captive II Cor. 10:5
  - Take the long view (goal in mind) Phil 3:13 NLT “looking forward.

..”

**Practical Step:** write out how you have been thinking. Put a line through it and then write a more healthy, godly thought or truth.

- C. Press On
  - Straining toward what is ahead
  - Put it into practice - Action

**Practical Step:** Decide the **specific** action you need to take. Track the days that you accomplish it. (ie. better husband – what are the actions of a good husband? Show affection, pay the bills, help around the house, pray with your wife) Choose one action and do it until it becomes a habit – 40

Scrooge – a transformation

**Conclusion:** President Ford vs. Saddam Hussein