News And Information For Perry Hill Road Members And Friends

Perry Hill Road Church Of Christ

September 18, 2016

www.perryhillroadchurch.org

Press Along to the Goal

She fled from the rising waters of the tsunami. Visions of her family, a husband and five children, flashed through her mind. She had to live not just for her, for them. As she climbed a tree, she was bitten by a snake. Then came the fire ants. They stung her legs, arms, face, even her eyes. Still, she climbed. This woman had one goal, survival; it was her only option. The reunion with her family would be worth it.

Setting goals is a part of life. Achieving them, however, is not quite as common. And many times, the difference between setting marks and reaching them is the reward that waits at the end. When two teams battle and fight their way through a close championship game, what do we usually say about the one that finally finishes on top? They were just hungrier; they wanted it more. At the beginning of the season, they didnt just set their minds on winning. Their goal was to win it all. They knew that the reward at the end would be worth it.

The apostle Paul likened Christianity to running a race when he said, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). That suggests some things about the determination and vision necessary as we make our journey to our own reward.

You have to press on. This race is not a sprint or a dash but a marathon, one that must be run with endurance (Hebrews 12:1). It is filled with obstacles, detours, and difficult turns, things that the devil will use to discourage you from running. Many passages warn about falling prey to our great adversary, hence falling out of the race (1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 11:14)? He wants you to fail. You have to press on. And when the struggles are internal, from within, you have to get through those, too. There will be times when you feel like you cant take another step. There will be times when you see people you love stop running. *Continued on the next page*

There will be times when you lose your focus and trip and fall. And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner (1 Peter 4:18)? That indicates that you have to work through conflicts and strife and treacherous roads along the way. Through all the pressures, you have to press on.

You have to press on toward the goal. The goal is the finish line. Its the reason you start running in the first place. No runner begins a race that he doesnt intend to complete. When Paul was at the end of his life, he said with confidence, I have finished the course (2 Timothy 4:7). That is, he had plenty of opportunities to quit but he wasnt about to stop running or even slow down until he felt the tape break across his chest at the finish.

Youre not finished yet. You still have a race to complete. Otherwise, it doesnt matter how a man lives or what a man does after he is saved, just so long as he was once saved. But the Bible makes it clear that we must keep pressing on toward completion. The writer of Hebrews said that we become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end (Hebrews 3:14). Peter encouraged Christians to stay strong, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls (1 Peter 1:10). Its the outcome, the end, the result, the goal. Keep pressing toward it.

You have to press on for the prize. The athletes in the First Century competed for a prize, a wreath of victory. And no one received an award just because they entered the race or ran for a little while. They had to finish to get it. And however difficult it was to pull the next hill or work through the pain, their minds were firmly fixed on the reward that was waiting at the end of the road. The stakes are much higher in the race that is set before us. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable (1 Corinthians 9:25). We press on for the crown of life, the prize of eternal fellowship with God. That was certainly Pauls motivation for fighting the good fight, for finishing the course, for keeping the faith. In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day (2 Timothy 4:8). Notice that he had not yet received his reward. That was the very reason he kept pressing on. Heaven will surely be worth it all. Just remember, youre not there yet. *To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against itbut we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor* (Oliver Wendell Holmes). Surviving a natural disaster and winning a national championship both involve courage, resolve, strength, and inspiration. But they are not worthy to be compared with the reward of a race run well. Set your sights on the city and press on, not off. *~Bubba Garner*

What Faith Makes Possible

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him" . . .Hebrews 11:6

It is possible for us to please God, but only by faith can we do so. Enoch's example illustrates how we can relate to God when we have real faith. Enoch "walked with God" (Genesis 5:24). And his walk with God, based on faith, had remarkable results. "By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, 'and was not found, because God had taken him'; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God" (Hebrews 11:5).

Enoch pleased God, the text says, by faith. Does this mean that the mere fact of intellectual "belief" pleases God? No, we must have a faith that diligently reaches toward God in a trust that is both hopeful and loving. "For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him" (2 Corinthians 5:7-9). If we make it our aim to be well pleasing to God, we need to understand that this wonderful possibility can be realized only by the obedience that comes from faith. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith is one part of the great triad: faith, hope, and love. And, in fact, the faith that makes pleasing God possible has in it a strong element of both hope and love. All three of these spiritual attributes look to the future through the eyes of trust. Working together, they produce the "work of faith," the "labor of love," and the "patience of hope" (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

Consider that the faith by which we come to God and please Him is not without real hope. While faith gives us a vision of how great our possibilities with God can be, it is hope that fervently desires these possibilities to come true. More than that, hope expects them to come true! And this expectation moves us to emulate God's character and grow in purity. "Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1 John 3:3).

By faith, we seek to please God because we love Him. It is faith that gives wings to love's natural desire. Showing us not only that God can be pleased but how we may do so, faith gives true substance to love's highest wish: the pleasure of our beloved God.

"***Faith is love taking the form of aspiration***." ~ William Ellery Channing

Gary Henry

Keep In PRAYER

[When you have updated data, please call John Burch-202-6518]

Prayer List (Updated: 09/17/16).

Mike Howard ...Recovering from successful shoulder surgery

Jess Hart continuing to recover from open heart surgery.

Stephen Guy - Health issues

Helen Darnell... Health issues

Kaye McDonald... Recvering **from** back surgery on September 8

Clyde Thatcher Marsha Williamson's father, Health issues.

Ken Kelly... Bone Cancer

Helen Stewart ...Still in a cast

Carol Domingus, sister in law of **Brenda Domingus** passed away Wednesday night following a stroke earlier in the week .

Coordinators: John Demas/Jim Keith
Ushers: Doug Williamson/Daniel Jones
Sound System: James Powell

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements: Rodger Cobia
Scripture: Neal Smith
Lead Singing: Michael Green
1st Prayer: Gary McDaniel

Communion

Bud Porter — Harold Mustin
John Burch — George Smith
Jerry Hensley — Nathan Smith

Sermon
Marshall McDaniel

Closing Prayer: David Sims

Sunday Evening Worship

Announcements: Rodger Cobia
Ushers: Stephen Guy/Mel Ott
Scripture: Eric Bradford
Lead Singing: Craig Sims
1st Prayer: Mike Howard
Sermon: Marshall McDaniel
Lord's Supper: Bob Trefethen
Closing Prayer: Blake Boren
Sound System: Jim Keith

LORD'S Supper Preparation

09/18 Betty Williamson 09/25 Bess Powell
10/02 Karen Ingram 10/09 Johnnie White

Wednesday Bible Study

Ushers: Alan White/Bob Trefethen
Announcements: Rodger Cobia
Lead Singing: Daniel Jones
Opening Prayer: Kenny Roberts
Invitation: Darrell Puckett
Closing Prayer: Curt Williamson
Sound System: Harold Mustin
Count Contribution: Keith Hollis, Ragan Ingram, Chris Lloyd

To our visitors:

- The people who assemble at Perry Hill Road are simply a group of Christians who belong to Christ and are devoted to serving God.
- Our aim is to glorify God by following the Bible, His inspired word, which is our only guide in worship and service.
- Our commitment is to preach Christ, who is man's only hope for eternal life, and live in such a way so that others may see Christ in us.
- We encourage an open study and discussion of the Scriptures in all our Bible classes and extend to all a sincere welcome.
- Personal studies are available upon request.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes	9 AM
Worship	10 AM
Evening	5 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes	7 PM

Records You Helped Make For the Week of Sept 11, 2016

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class	98
Sunday Moring Worship	150
Sunday Evening Worship	94
Wednesday Bible Study	88
Contribution	$4,151

Care Group 3 Serves this month ... meeting tonight in the Library / Resource room

John Wheatley memorial service set for Saturday, Sept. 24 at 2:00 p.m., Blue Ridge Baptist Church, 4471 Jasmine Hill Rd, Wetumpka, AL Linda is staying with her children this week. Please keep her in your prayers.