

**Sermon Date:** Sunday, 29 November 2020

**Speaker:** Pastor Walker Schurz

**Sermon Title:** I Press On – The prize

**Key Scripture:** Philippians 3:12-16

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Greetings,

Welcome to this week's online Connection Group meeting! We are so glad that you have decided to be part of today's meeting. Even though we are still meeting virtually, we still have a mandate to spur one another as instructed in **Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT** which says, ***“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together as some people do, but let us encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near”***. When you meet and connect with other people, you find grace and truth to enable you to grow spiritually, you learn to look beyond yourself and serve others and become more like Jesus Christ in behavior and attitude. Iron sharpens iron, so stay connected.

This week we look at part five of the series **“I Press On”** with a sermon title **“The Prize”**. In his sermon, Pastor Walker spoke of how the Apostle Paul likened our walk of faith to a race, leading to a prize because God has a heavenly prize for you. But to get that prize, you need to run your race! In today's discussion we talk about the mindset you should have when running your race in order for you to receive the prize of *your* upward call.

For more information call the Church office on 260 979 888555 or email:  
[connect@mlfc.org](mailto:connect@mlfc.org)

God bless you!

*Maloon*

## THIS WEEK'S STUDY: I PRESS ON – THE PRIZE

### A Getting to Know Each Other

What role do you play in your family during the Christmas holiday?

### B Digging Deeper and Application

**Key Text NKJV: Philippians 3:12-16, Acts 20:22-24, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

1. Human nature is helped when people start “with the end in mind”. When you have a vision of what lies ahead, it motivates you for today’s “pressing on.” What is your end-game? Chose one of the three options below that best explains your end game and explain how it describes you.
  - (a) Are you among those who run and drop out when the going gets tough? You give up on faith when it gets difficult and *pick it up* when the storm is calmer.
  - (b) Are you among those who have their goal to just finish the race, you don’t care if you break the rules or not, you only want to say at the end that you finished the race.
  - (c) Are you among those who are determined to finish and win the race the right way?
2. Philippians 3:14 NLT reads: “I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us (you).” Those who are in training to compete in any sports activity are very disciplined. They are willing to deny themselves the fancy foods. They are willing to sweat as they push their bodies to the limits. They were willing to make all kinds of sacrifices in order to win an earthy prize.
  - (a) What does your heavenly prize mean to you?
  - (b) What are you willing to give up to attain it?
  - (c) How are you living to today that will ensure you gain that heavenly prize?

### C Take Home

The future goal of winning the prize captured Paul’s complete attention, set him free from the tyranny of the past, and filled his present life with the incentive to press on to take hold of all that Christ had called him to be and do. Forgetting what is behind, Paul is straining toward what is ahead in order to know Christ - GW Hansen (commentary).

**Discover your call, run your race, win your prize!**