

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 27/06/2021

Text(s): Philippians 3:12–16

Sermon Title: Pressing On

Preacher: Rev Jason Phua

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

Philippians 3:12–16 (ESV)

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. The first woman to complete the 42 kilometre-Boston Marathon in 1966 was not qualified to receive a prize because she participated in the race illegally. Women were not permitted to join the marathon then. The second woman to complete the marathon “officially” in 1967 was able to do so because she did not state her gender in the application form. How did it make you feel hearing the stories of these two women who had the capability to complete a marathon but were jeered at or disqualified simply for being females? Would you have quit halfway if you were jeered at or angrily shouted at saying you’re not qualified to join the race?**

- 2. Applying the discussion on being disqualified to our spiritual marathon as Christians, we see that even the Apostle Paul was not qualified to be in the race because he was killing Christians prior to his conversion. Can you identify with the challenges Paul faced after his conversion, where the Christians were still afraid of him and distanced themselves from him? How did Paul handle his failures as a person, whether the failures were done before or after his conversion?**

- 3. We turn our attention to the prize that Paul was running after. What was this coveted prize that Paul was running for in the spiritual marathon he was on?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. In a typical race in the Olympics or a marathon, only the top winners get a prize. Is this true also in our spiritual marathon? What encouragement is there for us who feel we are lagging behind other Christians in this spiritual race we are on?**
- 2. What else can help us tremendously in our spiritual marathon towards Christian perfection? How has the pandemic shaped the way you run the race and what can we do to ensure we continue on in this race?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See **MyPMC > PRAY** for the monthly guide)

- Pray for one another to not give up running the spiritual race towards Christian perfection but to grow in our spiritual maturity demonstrated in constantly loving God and people.
- *Pray for our church to be able to overcome challenges that might come from a pandemic or from persecution that attempt to cause us to be disconnected from one another.*
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.