

Perry Hill Road Church Of Christ

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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 didn't 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 can't take another step. There will be times when you see people you love stop running. *Continued on the next page*

