



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Here is another guest devotional while I am on vacation. This one was shared with me by Ada Voskuilen. She does not remember the source and a search of the internet didn't reveal it.

Philippians 3:7-14 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

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.

Someone pointed out that the secret of Paul's unflagging devotion to the spread of the gospel rested on four principles. Consider them and see where they are true for your life.

Consecration

"I count everything as loss." He threw away the baggage of his old life when he was converted in Christ. We have to check our life constantly and see if there are concerns that weigh us down, keeping us from running the race.

Concentration

"The surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Paul knew Christ as his only source of power and his only goal. Storm the citadel of man's soul and capture it for Christ. A variety of calling come to God's people. Whatever you set out to do, do it with total concentration.

Cancellation

"Forgetting what lies behind." Sometimes Paul preached in churches where there were women whose husbands were killed because him. But by the grace of Christ, that sinful past bothered him no more! All the remorse was cast overboard. That made him ready for the battle for Christ.

Continuation

"Straining forward to what lies ahead. I press toward the goal..." That can be so hard, to continue on the path of service. To stick with a goal. We must help each other to do that. We daily need Christ's power to persevere. On his last birthday, David Livingston, made this entry in his diary, "Lord Jesus, I rededicate to you my life, my all, for you, my Savior, my King.