

May 3, 2016

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

For the past two weeks, our *Year of the Bible* readings have focused on the letters of Saint Paul, who travelled around the Mediterranean in the years after Jesus' death, establishing Christian communities. Paul faced many obstacles in his missionary work – personal rejection, arrest, even imprisonment – and yet, he never wavered in what he was doing.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul wrote:

Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

We all have to “press on” at times. Life requires tenacity and perseverance. Sometimes, we just have to keep going, doing our best to make it through the day, despite the hurdles, the oppositions, the hardships.

A little over 100 hundred years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt made the same point in a well-known speech at the Sorbonne in Paris. The President said:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

Whatever comes your way this week, give the world your best, dare greatly and press on, for your prize awaits.

See you in church,
Andrew