



## Times of Worship

- Sunday Bible Classes:** 9am  
**Sunday AM Worship:** 10am  
**Sunday PM Worship:** 5pm  
**Wednesday Bible Study:** 7pm

## Join us Online

### Church Website:

<https://www.westfayettechurchofchrist.com/>

### YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGckN8D9NwwX3KUbQ4GRKyA>

## Interested in a Bible Study?

Please send an email to [patcawthon@gmail.com](mailto:patcawthon@gmail.com)

## Evangelist

Patrick Cawthon

## Reaching Forward

*“One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 3:13-14)*

Paul simplifies his entire Christian walk in these two verses. He shows us the mindset of what maturity in Christ looks like. He gives the church in Philippi his mindset with the goal that they will adopt the same mindset for themselves. This purpose statement for Paul’s life is one that we need to adopt for ourselves. Let’s break this apart together.

**“One thing I do”** - Everything that Paul did is under the umbrella of this “one thing.” This is what Paul focused on day in and day out as he preached the gospel and founded many churches in Asia and Europe. By focusing his efforts on this “one thing,” he was able to not get distracted by things of lesser importance. It is amazing what Paul was able to accomplish with God’s help by simply focusing all of his efforts on this “one thing.”

**“Forgetting what lies behind”** - In the context of this verse, Paul has in mind the positive things he has done for the Lord. He left behind all of his earthly achievements as the up and coming Pharisee that was destined for great success as a

## Week of December 24

### Attendance

- ✦ **AM Service** - 62
- ✦ **PM Service** -
- ✦ **Wednesday** - 29

### Contribution

- ✦ Weekly Budget \$2,400
- ✦ Contribution - \$2,042

### Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ✦ Benjamin Carswell (12/31)
- ✦ Matthew Martin (1/1)
- ✦ Lori Barbour (1/18)

### Calendar Items

**Women's Bible Study** will resume January 9th

**Song Learning Class** on January 14 at the building at 4pm

**Men's Meeting** on January 28 at the building at 4pm

Jew. He counted those things as rubbish so that he could gain Christ. Paul had done a lot of good things for the Lord but he does not focus on the past.

**“Reaching forward to what lies ahead”** - Since Paul is not focused on his past, there is only one direction to look - forward. Paul focuses his efforts on what he can do for the Lord today. He focuses his efforts on others’ “progress and joy in the faith.” (1:25) Instead of reminiscing about what he has done for the Lord, he focuses on how he can help others grow in the Lord in the future.

**“I press on toward the goal”** - Paul knows what the goal of his life is - getting to heaven. That is the sole focus of his life. The question Paul asks himself every morning must have been, “What can I do to day to help myself and others get to heaven.” With this as his “one thing,” he becomes a great example of a mature christian.

Paul wrote these words while he was a prisoner in Rome. It would have been easy for him to look back at all the things God had accomplished and say to himself, there’s not much I can do now. Instead, Paul wrote letters to encourage other christians that he knew (Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon). He continued to proclaim the gospel to whoever would listen to him. He was still very active and kept his focus on this one thing.

As we enter into the year 2024 together with our goals and plans, may all of them fall under the umbrella of helping others in their walk with God. There is no retirement for Jesus’ servants in His kingdom. There is always something we can do to help others in their faith.

May we, like Paul, forget the things that are behind and reach forward to what lies ahead “always abounding in the work of the Lord.” (1Co 15:58)

Patrick