NEW YEAR, NEW YOU
PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14 / 1-5-20 / A.M.

I. FIRST, WHAT THINGS SHOULD WE FORGET?

A. Although we can’t be sure what Paul is referring to here, he could be talking about his past successes or his past failures.

B. Why should we forget our past successes?

   1. For one thing, if we are constantly focusing on our past successes, we become satisfied and never strive for something better.

   2. This attitude can impede our future in two ways.

      a. Either we become afraid we can never do what we once did and never try again.

      b. Or, we become uncoachable thinking we don’t need anyone else’s help.

C. But equally problematic is focusing constantly on our past failures.

   1. We’ve all failed at something.

   2. These memories are usually painful and can paralyze us from ever trying again.

D. Paul’s point is don’t allow either your past successes or failures keep you from doing something great this year.

II. SECOND, WHAT THINGS SHOULD WE STRIVE FOR?

A. According to verse ten, Paul is striving to know Jesus even more than he already knew him—v. 10 “I want to know Christ”.

B. How well do you know Jesus?

   1. Do you realize there’s a big difference in knowing “about” Jesus and truly knowing him?

   2. Too many Christians today are satisfied with a cursory knowledge of Jesus.

   3. As someone puts it, “Most Christians are a close to God as they want to be.”

C. Paul indicated that he wasn’t satisfied with a simple knowledge of Jesus—I Cor. 1:9-10.
III. THIRD, WHAT THINGS SHOULD WE PRESS ON FOR?

A. By now we should know that Paul is pressing on like an athlete in a race to know Jesus Christ more.

B. How can do this?

1. First, Jesus says, identify the problem—Rev. 2:4.

Revelation 2:4
Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

2. Second, Jesus offers a threefold solution to anyone who’s love for Jesus has diminished.

   a. First, admit it—v. 4 “You have forsaken the love you had at first” …v.5 “Consider how far you have fallen”.

   b. Second, confess it—v. 5 “Repent”.

   c. Third, repeat it—v.5 “Do the things you did at first.”