

Pressing On
Philippians 3:12-16

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I. Paul was perfectly imperfect. *Philippians 3:12*

With the words, "**Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected**", Paul made it clear that he was not _____ with the spiritual things he had already achieved for Christ.

- Some Christians compare themselves with other Christians, so they feel as if they have attained but we are supposed to look to Jesus as our _____ to follow, not other Christians.

"Jesus laid hold of Paul to make him an _____ in the conversion of others so Paul would lay hold of the work of bringing others to Jesus."

(David Guzik)

II. Forget the past and serve the Lord. *Philippians 3:13-14*

"Yesterday's battles were won with yesterday's grace. We can rejoice over them, but we can't _____ in them. God is willing to give you grace for today." (Cimino)

- Sin does have consequences; however, once we have repented of the sin, we should then rearview-mirror our past losses and not allow Satan to continue to _____ us of our past failures.

The **prize** is more than eternal life and its blessings. The **call** of God is part of the **prize**. The fact that a holy God would call us and bless us to be a part of His plan, is an _____ prize!

III. Walk in Maturity. *Philippians 3:15-16*

Those who are mature will have the same mind as other mature Christians and if they do not, Paul said the Lord would reveal the _____ of becoming like-minded.

1. Christian growth and maturity begin with a _____ to grow, placed within us through the Holy Spirit.
2. Christian growth and maturity need _____.

The Lord says we should hunger and thirst for things He can offer that will satisfy our deepest _____.

3. Christian growth and maturity take time and _____.

Great servants of God are not people who live without ever sinning, but people who learn from their mistakes and **press on** to serve the Lord

_____.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read ***Philippians 3:12***. Discuss what Paul meant when he said he had not **attained, or am already perfected**. *Is there a difference between our positional standing with Christ and our practical maturity as a Christian?*
2 Corinthians 5:17, John 6:44, Hebrews 5:8, Romans 8:29
2. Read ***Philippians 3:13-14***. *What are the dangers with focusing on past mistakes or past victories? How important is the focus of a runner? What are some of the names that describe our enemy's character?*
1 Corinthians 9:25-27, John 8:44, Revelation 12:10
3. *What did Rich say was the "prize" Paul was speaking of in ***Philippians 3:14***? ***Numbers 6:24-26, Philippians 4:19, James 1:17-18, 2 Corinthians 9:8-10****
4. Read ***Philippians 3:15-16***. *What does like-mindedness have to do with spiritual maturity?*
Philippians 2:1-2, Romans 12:16
5. Discuss the three steps to spiritual maturity found in point III. of the sermon note sheet.
John 16:13, Matthew 5:6, James 1:2-4
6. Discuss the Practical Application of the sermon.