

Philippians 3:12-16

The Lifelong Pursuit of Our Calling

This passage emphasizes the focus needed for believers to live their entire lives in pursuit of Christ. As God's children, it is important to grasp the important of this great calling!

> Paul states that he has not reached perfection and therefore needs to keep growing closer to Christ (v. 12). Why is understanding our need for continual spiritual growth so important? It allows us to recognize areas where God is still working in our lives; it causes us to continually pursue holiness; etc.

> What do you think Paul means when he says he is forgetting those things in the past and pursuing things ahead (v. 13)? He is not focusing on past failures or even successes, but rather on how he can become more like Christ today and on into the future.

> Growing spiritually is said to be a sign of maturity (v. 15). But if we are not yet perfect, how can it be said to be a sign of maturity? It takes maturity to admit we are not perfect. When we submit to God as He works in our hearts, it is a sign of maturity.

Application

There is so much that can get our focus off pursuing Christ (past guilt, busy schedules, a sense of contentment, etc.). If you are struggling in the pursuit of your upward call, try this:

- Identify the specific things that hinder your spiritual growth. Adjust your perspectives or circumstances accordingly in a way that puts Christ first.
- Consider what Christ has given you or placed in your life that encourages spiritual growth. Utilize those things in a determined effort to live for God.

We must "press on" toward the goal, just as Paul did. The gospel not only saved him, but it made him passionate to live for the Lord. We must be driven by the same passion as well!

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