

**Series "Joy In Christ"**  
**"A Goal"**  
**Philippians 3:12-16**  
**Part-13**

**Philippians 3:12**

Paul uses many examples to illustrate and to teach us about the Christian life.

1. Military - put on the whole armor of God!
2. Architecture - You are the temple of God!
3. Agriculture - Whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap!
4. Athlete - **Philippians 3:12-16** He uses a foot race or a chariot race.  
**1 Corinthians 9:25-27**

**Galatians 5:7**

**Philippians 3 - Joy In Sharing:** A Warning 1-9; A Testimony 10-11;  
A Goal 12-16; A Command 17-21 (Pursuit of Christ).

**"Salvation Is Not The Signal To Stop, But The Signal To Start"**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "Believers Must Have A Spiritual Discontent With A Devout Determination Because Discipline Will Lead To Christlikeness."

- 1. Verses 12-13 Discontent:**
- 2. Verses 13-14 Determination:**
- 3. Verses 15-16 Discipline:**

**1. Verses 12-13 Discontent:**

**Philippians 3:12 Not that I have already obtained it,**

**Context – Paul just shared in Verses 10-11 his desire for Knowing Him, Knowing His Power, and Knowing His Suffering.**

**Verse 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

Paul now shares his means to that goal.

**obtained - "received"**

He had not received all that God had in store for him yet.

**(3 Confessions Of Paul)**

**1. Have Not Received Everything: Not that I have already obtained it**

Paul had not "attain" or "obtained" all. Literally, it reads "received."

He had not yet received everything that God had in store for him. Done it all.

**2. Have Not Become Everything: or have already become perfect,**

*"Not that ... I have already been perfected, finished"*

This word speaks of "absolute perfection." *complete, to be made whole"*

**False Doctrine - Sinless Perfectionism** - "the belief that Christians can achieve a state of complete sinlessness in this life." **1 John 1:8-10**

**Scripture speaks of Three Stages of Perfection:**

- 1. Positional Perfection** - This speaks of the salvation that has been given to every Christian. **Hebrews 10:14**
- 2. Progressive or Relative Perfection** - This speaks of a maturity in the spiritual walk with God. **2 Corinthians 7:1; Galatians 3:3**
- 3. Ultimate Perfection** - God's plan of salvation is all-inclusive; sinlessness will take place in heaven. **Romans 8:30; Ephesians 5:27**

**"A mark of being mature is knowing that you are not perfect."**

**A sanctified dissatisfaction is essential to progress in the Christian life/race.**

**3. I Have Not Done Everything: I press on, (follow after)**

*Greek "to pursue or follow after" - "to run swiftly in order to catch a person or thing,"* **Hebrews 12:1**

**so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.**

*Jesus Christ pursued Paul until He caught him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9); now Paul was pursuing his Savior.*

**God's Purpose Is To Conform Us To His Image: laid hold of (Apprehends us to make us like Himself.)**  
**Romans 8:29; Colossians 3:10; 1 John 3:2**

**Philippians 3:13 Brethren,**  
Enduring term, members of God's spiritual family

**I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;**  
*Paul had not yet achieved the total divine purpose for his life* **Romans 12:1**

**2. Verses 13-14 Determination:**

**Philippians 3:13 but one thing I do:**  
That is the key to being effective.

**1. The rich young ruler that came to Jesus. Mark 10:21 "One thing you lack:**  
(Possessions and things have a way of leading us astray.)

**2. Story of Mary and Martha, Luke 10:42 really only one,**

(Our service and work have a way of choking out our relationship with God, it replaces it.)

### **3. Blind man healed by Jesus, John 9:25 one thing I do know,**

(Religion can take away common sense and lead us into foolishness.) **Psalm 27:4**

#### **How to run with determination (Three Things):**

**1. Forget The Past: forgetting what lies behind** - This was Paul's plan

**forgetting** - **"to forget"** in the Bible means *"no longer to be influenced by or affected by."* *Not absorbed in his attention so as to impede his progress.*

**We break the power of the past by living in the present for the future. (Confession and Correction) don't repeat!**

Jesus said, **Luke 17:32 "Remember Lot's wife.** Moses said, **Genesis 19:26**

**Hebrews 10:17**

**"And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."**

**The trap of dwelling in the past upon good things God has done.**

**2. Looking To The Future: reaching forward to what lies ahead.**

*verb "reaching" "Straining to reach, agonizing to hold" denotes an athlete who runs without swerving off course and who strains his entire body to cross the finish line*

**what lies ahead**

*A personal knowledge of Christ, victory over sin and self, and more personal growth and achievement.*

**Philippians 3:14**

**3. I Press On: I press on,**

same as in **verse 12 "I follow after."** This **press on** is speaking of *"intense endeavor."* It speaks of *"a hunter eagerly seeking his prey."*

**toward the goal (race being run) for the prize (glory that follows the goal) of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 4:7-8**

**upward call**

In the Christian walk, it is always moving towards God

### **3. Verses 15-16 Discipline:**

**Philippians 3:15 Let us therefore,**

*"What is the therefore therefore?"*

*"Therefore" joins this section to the previous one.*

*Paul wanted his personal aims to become the goals for the Philippians.*

**Paul's Command - Let us** - Paul is identifying himself with the church.

**as many as are "Perfect"**

Here means *"mature," "ripeness," "full-grown and sound."*

**"Perfect"** This word gives the idea of *"being crowned as a victor."*  
*"Having attained the prize."*

**have this attitude (mind)**

Literally - *"Let us keep on thinking"* **Philippians 2:5**

**Correction: and if in anything you have a different attitude,**

This is spoken to those who are not following Paul's exhortation, in which Paul has been speaking.

**God will reveal that also to you;**

Paul is saying, "If you don't agree to what I am telling you, God will have to get through to you!" **Galatians 5:10**

**Philippians 3:16 however** - *"into which"*

They have moved from a doctrinal position into a behavioral pattern that was being threatened by the legalists.

**let us keep living (walking)** *"walk orderly,*

*To proceed in a row as the march of a soldier, go in order, to direct one's life, to live, speaks of constant obedience."*

**by that same standard - rule** translates to *"canon."*

**The Bible alone is the basis of faith and practice.**

**to which we have attained.**

These are the standards that Paul has discussed. **Galatians 5:25; Matthew 24:35**

**It matters not what the contestants or the spectators think, but what the judge says that matters. 2 Timothy 2:5**

**Application:**

- 1. Discontent:** A Mark Of Being Mature Is Knowing That You Are Not Perfect. A Sanctified Dissatisfaction Is Essential To Progress In The Christian Life/Race.
- 2. Determination:** It Matters Not If I Attain People's Goals For My Life. It Matters Not If Others Say I Am A Success, But That I Attain God's Goal For My Life.
- 3. Discipline:** It Matters Not What Other Contestants Or Spectators Think, But What The Judge Says That Ultimately Matters.