

**“Facing A New Year”**  
**Philippians 3:12-16**  
**New Years Message, December 27, 2009**

**Phil 3** - The Spiritual Mind. (Pursuit of Christ) Right relationship to God has to be established for both Salvation and Service.

Paul uses the illustration of an “Athlete” to describe “The Christian Life” that of a foot race or a chariot race.

Paul loved to use the runner as an example - 1 Cor. 9:25-27

**Gal 5:7** You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

**1. Verses 12-13 – A Godly Discontent:**

**2. Verses 13-14 – A Godly Determination:**

**3. Verses 15-16 – A Godly Discipline:**

**1. Verses 12-13 – A Godly Discontent:**

Phil 3:12

3 Confessions of The Apostle Paul:

1. Have Not Received All: Not that I have already obtained it,

Phil 3:10-11

2. I Have Not Been Perfected: or have already become perfect; Perfect - “finished”; This word speaks of absolute perfection. Perfect, complete, to be made whole.

Phil. 3:15

Scripture Speaks of 3 Stages of Perfection:

1. Positional Perfection - Hebrews 10:14

2. Progressive Perfection - 2 Corinthians 7:1

Gal. 3:3

3. Ultimate Perfection - Ephesians 5:27

1 John 1:8-10

“The Mark of Being Mature is Knowing that you are Not Perfect”  
“A Sanctified Dissatisfaction is the First Essential to Progress in the Christian Race.”

We are not to Compare ourselves with other Christians.

3. I Have Not Accomplished Everything: I press on, (follow after); a Greek word that means “to pursue” or “to run swiftly in order to catch a person or thing” (in a hostile manner)

Heb. 12:1

1. God Calls and Saves People. (Apprehends)
2. God’s Purpose is to Conform us to His Image. (Apprehends us to make us like Himself.)

Rom. 8:29-30

3. Our Response Should be to Press On.

1 Tim. 4:7-8

Phil 3:13

Discontent: We have not arrived!

## **2. Verses 13-14 – A Godly Determination:**

Phil 3:13

1. The Rich Young Ruler that came to Jesus. Mark 10:21  
(Possessions and things have a way of leading us astray.)
2. Story of Mary and Martha. Luke 10:42  
(Our over-service and work has a way of choking out our relationship with God.)
3. Blind Man Healed by Jesus. John 9:25  
(Religion can take away common sense and lead us into foolishness.)

Ps. 27:4

## How to Run with Determination (3 Things):

1. Forget the Past: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

forgetting - "To forget" in the Bible means "no longer to be influenced by or affected by"

Luke 17:32

Genesis 19:26

Heb. 10:17

The Good-Bad Trap – of dwelling in the past goodness of God.

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

reaching forward; "Straining to reach, agonizing to hold"

Phil 3:14

3. I Press On: I press on, same as in verse 1 – 2 "I follow after." This "press on" is speaking of "intense endeavor"; It speaks of "a hunter eagerly seeking his pray"; This speaks of our part.

Only one athlete wins the prize, all the others will receive a reward.

Determination: We have to be committed!

### **3. Verses 15-16 – A Godly Discipline:**

Phil 3:15

as many as are perfect - here means "mature", "ripeness", "full grown and sound." This is speaking of a select group of believers would respond to this appeal.

"Perfect"; This word also 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

John 7:17

Phil 3:16

Standard – “rule” translates to “canon”

“Belief Determines Behavior, False teaching always produces False Living.”

2 Timothy 2:5

The Spiritual Competition of life is not measured by what the other contestants think or even by what the spectators say, but by what the Judge renders when the Competition is over.”

Discipline: We have to play by the rules!

### **Application:**

1. Discontent: We have not arrived!
2. Determination: We have to be committed!
3. Discipline: We have to play by the rules!

"How to prepare for the Word"

1. Get a good night's rest –
2. Prepare for Sunday, Wednesdays -
3. Concentration –
4. Application -

"How you can pray for me!"

1. Pray for my preparation time as I study and pray.
2. Pray for the delivery of the Word.
3. Pray for the protection of God.