

RUN THE RACE TO WIN **(Philippians 3: 12-16)**

INTRODUCTION: Philippians 3: 4-11 describes Paul's encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus and the glorious exchange he made when he gave up all he was for all Christ is. Verses 4-7 detail what Paul lost in the exchange, while verses 8-11 detail what Paul gained in the exchange:

1. Personal and intimate knowledge of Christ (v. 8)
2. Right standing with God through the righteousness of Christ (v. 9)
3. The power of Christ to overcome sin and serve God (v. 10a)
4. The fellowship of Christ in suffering (v. 10b)
5. Sharing in the future glory of Christ (v. 11)

In Philippians 3: 12-16 we discover that despite all Paul gained in Christ, this did not lead him to passivity in his Christian faith, but created an intense desire to go deeper in his relationship with Christ and to pursue the goal of becoming more and more like Christ. Paul uses the metaphor of a race to illustrate the effort that is worthy in the pursuit of the infinite prize of Christ.

1. **DISSATISFACTION** with my present spiritual condition that motivates me to experience deeper depths of Christ-likeness.

Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3: 12

2. **CONCENTRATION** on one thing: remaining faithful to Christ each step of the race in order to cross the finish line a winner.

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet, but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead...

Philippians 3: 13

3. **MOTIVATION** to run and win the race comes from keeping my eyes fixed on the prize of Christ.

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3: 14

4. **DISCIPLINE** in training standards, without which no one wins the race.

Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by the same standard to which we have attained.

Philippians 3: 15-16 (compare 1 Corinthians 9: 24 - 10: 13)