

The Believer's Pursuit of Spiritual Maturity ***Philippians 3: 12-16***

I. Paul's Posted Warning – 3: 1-3

- A. **The Command** (3:1) – “Rejoice in the Lord”
- B. **The Caution** (3:2) – “Beware”
- C. **The Contrast** (3:3) – “For we...have no confidence in the flesh”
- D. **The Confession of Paul** (3:4-6) – “though I also might have confidence in the flesh”

II. Paul's Perspective on Profit and Loss (3: 7-11) – “but...I count**”**

- A. **A Proper Discarding** (3:7) – “what things were gain to me these I counted loss”
- B. **A Preeminent Discovery** (3:8-9) – “Christ”
- C. **A Positive Desire** (3:10) – “...that I may know **Him**..”

III. The Pursuit of Spiritual Maturity (3: 12-16) – “but...I press on**”**

A. Paul's Personal _____ (3:12-14)

 Philippians 3:12-14 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. (13) Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, (14) I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

1. A _____ **Pursuit** (3:12a) – “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected”

a.) **Paul had not** _____ **Everything** – “Not that I have already attained”

b.) **Paul had not** _____ **Everything** – “or am already perfect”

 The first and foremost prerequisite for _____ in spiritual maturity is for every believer to come to the realization that there are _____ areas where we need to _____ and mature.

2. A _____ **Pursuit** (3:12b) – “but I press on”

 **Press on**

 God's purpose for Paul, as well as all believers, is to mold us more and more into the image of His Son, as _____ Him. (2 Cor. 3:18)

3. A _____ **Pursuit** (3:13) – “one thing I do”
(Acts 20:24; Ps.27:4; Prov. 4:25-27; Luke 10:42; James 1:6-8)

 What is your One thing?

Two Requirements for a Singular Pursuit –

- _____ – **Do Not Look Behind** – “forgetting those things which are behind”
(Luke 9:62)
- _____ – **Reach Forward to what is Ahead** – “reaching forward to those things which are ahead”

4. **A** _____ **Pursuit (3:14)** – “I press toward the goal”
(1 Tim. 4:6-8)

 **Goal**

 What is the Goal? To _____ Him and allow Him to work _____ and _____ you.

 **Prize**

B. Paul’s Personal _____ (3:15-16)

 Philippians 3:15-16 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. (16) Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

“...let us, as many as our mature, have this mind”
(Heb. 5:14; 1 Cor. 2:6)

 **Mature**

 **Mind**

“...and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you”
(John 7:17; Prov. 2:3-6; James 1:5)

1. **A** _____ **Pursuit (3:16)** – “let us...”

a.) **United in our** _____ – “let us walk by the same rule”

 **Walk:**

b.) **United in our** _____ – “let us be of the same mind”

What does this mean to you?