

Follow After the Prize (Philippians 3:11-14)

In Philippians 3:9 we considered Paul as he was *resting* in the *justifying* truth of being “*found in Him*” not according to works-righteousness but according to faith-righteousness.

Then we considered Paul as he was *reaching* for the *sanctifying* truth of “*knowing Christ*.” This knowledge of Christ is “transforming” knowledge—knowledge that changes us into the image of Christ. It is a *powerful* experience in that it gives us courage in place of former cowardice. It is at times a *painful* experience as we are called upon to fellowship with Christ in suffering for His name. And finally it *practical* experience as we die to self and in turn manifest Christ-like qualities—Christ is then “*found*” in us.

Q: What does it take to win the prize?

Q: What does it take to finish the race?

I. The _____ in Pursuing the Prize (v. 11)

Cf. Hebrews 12:1

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

II. The _____ in Pursuing the Prize (v. 12-14)

A. A Sanctified _____ (v. 12-13a)

A great danger in the race of the Christian life is _____. It is dangerous to our testimony and dangerous to our growth.

Paul’s mindset that he was always _____ under _____.

B. A Sole _____ (v. 13b)

Wiersbe – The winners are those who concentrate, who keep their eyes on the goal and let nothing distract them. They are devoted entirely to their calling.

Proverbs 17:24 *Wisdom* is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool *are* in the ends of the earth.

James 1:8 A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Be _____-minded.

C. A Single _____ (v. 13c)

To “*forget*” does not mean completely _____ the past from one's memory but it does mean that one does not allow the adverse effects of the past to _____ their moving forward.

Dwelling on past victories encourages over _____ and in turn _____. Dwelling on past defeats _____ and defeats. Learn from past victories and defeats and move forward.

Cf. Proverbs 17:24

D. A Steadfast _____ (v. 12 & 14)

The words “*follow after*” (v. 12) and “*press*” (v.14) are the same Greek word. They carry the idea of an _____ and _____ pursuit.

Our pursuit is the very thing for which Christ saved us for. Our _____ must be His _____!

As we see, the “*prize*” is a “*high calling*”—it is the highest calling for it is Christlikeness—it is a heavenly prize.

Cf. Proverbs 2:1-5