



## SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

### I. PRESSING ON TOWARD THE PRIZE (PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16)

- A. We should humbly and honestly acknowledge we haven't arrived (Philippians 3:12a, 13a)
  - 1. Not even the Apostle Paul had arrived at perfect discipleship (Philippians 3:12a; 3:9-11)
  - 2. We can't afford past success to become an excuse for coasting (Philippians 3:13a)
- B. We should commit to a passionate pursuit of growing in Christ (Philippians 3:12b, 13b, 14)
  - 1. The "this" and "it" is knowing Christ (2 Peter 3:18): as our source of righteousness (Philippians 3:9), as our goal of sanctification (Philippians 3:10), as our greatest hope (Philippians 3:11)
  - 2. We press on in passionate pursuit (Philippians 3:12, 14; 3:6a)
  - 3. We strain forward to win the prize to be with Christ (Philippians 3:13-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
  - 4. We have a single-minded pursuit (Philippians 3:13; Romans 6:5-14)
- C. Maturity in Christ acknowledges the need for maturation (Philippians 3:15-16)
  - 1. Those who are spiritually mature will think of their need to passionately pursue growing in Christ (Philippians 3:15; 1:25; 1:9; Colossians 1:28-29)
  - 2. Spiritual maturity recognizes the tension between "already and not-yet" (Philippians 3:16; 1:16)

### II. IMITATING THOSE WHO WALK IN GOSPEL HOPE (PHILIPPIANS 3:17-21)

- A. The call to imitate those that are mature (Philippians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 11:1)
- B. The warning to avoid earthly-minded imposters (Philippians 3:18-19)
  - 1. Imposters walk as enemies of the cross (Philippians 3:18; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Galatians 6:14)
  - 2. Imposters are headed for destruction because they are idolaters to their passions and boast of their shameful behavior (Philippians 3:19; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:2)
  - 3. These things are evidence of an earthly mindset (Philippians 3:19; Colossians 3:1-11)
- C. The reality of gospel hope and our identity (Philippians 3:20-21)
  - 1. We are citizens of a heavenly kingdom (Philippians 3:20; Colossians 1:13-14)
  - 2. On earth, we are sojourners and exiles (1 Peter 1:1; 2:11-12)
  - 3. We ought to live consistently with our identity (Philippians 1:27; Matthew 5:14, 16; Colossians 3:12-17)

## PHILIPPIANS 3:12-4:1

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**4** Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

## III. STAND FIRM IN THE LORD (PHILIPPIANS 4:1)

### SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. Have there been seasons where you have been more dedicated or less dedicated to growing in Christ? What kinds of things tend to push you towards or pull you away from pursuing Christ more intentionally?
2. According to Philippians 3:12, why does Paul press on toward his goal of growing in Christ? What does Paul's example show us about the motivation behind our own growth in Christ?
3. Is it important for us to pursue growth in Christ with passion? What role do our affections and desires play in pursuing growth? Do they matter?
4. Paul invites the Philippian believers to imitate him and follow his example while avoiding earthly-minded imposters (3:17-19). Do you consciously try to follow the example of mature believers in your church community? Why or why not?
5. Why is it so important to remember that knowing Christ is our source of righteousness, our goal of sanctification, and our greatest hope? How does the reality of our identity in Christ and our gospel hope help us to persevere in our walk with Christ?