

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3:12-14

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“UNTIL WE CROSS THE FINISH LINE” – PART 2

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Salvation, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

The Last Time Together – Here in Philippians Chapter 3, I said what I want to say again – which is, that many scholars and Bible teachers agree here – that we are hearing from the Apostle what might be the most accurate description of a true Christian life.

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.

When Paul wrote his letter to the believers in Rome, he again confessed that - strangely remarkable struggle that now exists in the life of “every” “true” - “heaven bound” = Christian.

Romans 7:21-8:2 NLT

I have discovered this principle of life - - that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. **22** I love God's law with all my heart. **23** But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. **24** Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? **25** Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin. **8:1** So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. **2** And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

The Famed Oxford University Professor, Philosopher and Genius,
C.S. Lewis wrote;

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation;
old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Would you say of yourself this morning

"I go to church" – I would say "good" to that.

"I read my Bible" and I would say "fine" to that.

"I say my prayers" and I would say "excellent" to that.

"I live a moral life" and I would say "of course" to that.

"I try to help others" and I would say "splendid" to that.

But so did Nicodemus represent such things to Jesus, and Jesus said;
You' re coming up short Nick, every time – it' s not enough.

Until We Cross The Finish Line

1.) **He has revealed your purpose** **vs. 12**

Philippians 3:12

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.

1a.) **And it's beyond your comprehension vs. 12a**

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected;

Think with me for a moment about what God has offered us in the word in the Bible.

“First of all – Is His unsolicited offer that He would offer us to be rescued from our dilemma by His grace. Second of all - It involves a transaction, a price to be paid, that is completely beyond human wealth or merit. Third, it is an offer that has been purchased by Himself, between Himself - that can only be maintained by God the Saviour. Finally it requires a reaction – that on our part we are invited to simply agree with Him, to receive from Him, to trust Him, until we cross the finish line of life.”

Romans 5:8-9

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

So what is Beyond my Comprehension? – it' s this new Pursuit.

“Not that I have already attained.”

(and we had better be careful to see to it that it is our confession as well.)

We saw that this was the doctrinal reality of the Believer's Sanctification. We learned how that Reality has a dual function in our lives – that there is a Positional Sanctification which is then worked out in a life of Practical Sanctification.

Until We Cross The Finish Line He Has Revealed Your Purpose

1b.) **And it's greater than your ability** vs. 12b

but I press on...



press grk: dee-o'-ko;

to be in pursuit of, to lean forward into, to be locked on to (that which possess you). regarding the divine relations with God the picture is one with Him nudging us forward and we ourselves willfully leaning forward - toward the finish line.

The Bible paints various illustrations of what the Christian life is like;

It's like a sprinter in a race

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

As the Holy Spirit presses Jesus' words and actions and attitudes and love (#1) into us, we then begin to walk out into this world and as we do we (#2) are pressing the image of Christ in us up against the world.

It's like a championship prize-fighter

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

It's like a marathon runner

2 Timothy 4:7b-8

I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

??? Is it like this within you ???

http://images.shape.mdpcdn.com/sites/shape.com/files/styles/slide/public/media/jennifer-simpson_1.jpg

Diving headfirst across the finish line isn't a strategy used by most runners, but Jenny Simpson used the dramatic move to take first place in the 1500-meter run to win the Diamond League Series and become the "World's Best Women's 1500 runner." The world championship gold medalist said "I didn't mean to join the diver's club, but was knocked over toward the finish line by a fellow competitor and so I just went with it—literally."

COME TO JESUS TODAY

The Cross, The Christ, The Call

End of Study

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