

Pressing on for the Prize **Philippians 3:12-16**

Paul continues in an autobiographical way ("I") in 3:12-14 but switches to "us" and "you" in 15-16. Idea = Y'all need to do what I say--and what I do.

How we attain the greatest prize of life, 12-14

- 12 Paul's aim to perfectly know / experience Christ isn't complete but he keeps pressing on, knowing it's God's ultimate purpose for him.
- 13-14 Using athletic imagery (1 Cor. 9:24-26, Heb. 12:1, 2 Tim. 2:5), Paul offers what works for him: stay focused on the future and forget about the past. But what exactly should be forgotten?

Note there is but one *prize*--all else is *loss* (7,8), and that prize is the experiencing of Christ fully in heaven (*upward call* → *resurrection*).

How our attitude may need some adjusting, 15-16

- 15 Paul appeals for all believers to adopt his own *mind-set / attitude*. The mature should readily take Paul's attitude, but if we don't he trusts God will reveal / make clear our need to adjust our attitudes. Copying this *attitude* (2x) recalls *attitude* in 2:5 and later in 3:19, 4:2. How might God do this "attitude-clarifying" in our lives?
- 16 In any case, there is no question we need to maintain the level of progress we have already experienced. It's easy to lose our focus, especially because of problems / disagreements, 1:29,30 / 4:2.



How well am I
pressing on in
my race?

Has God been
showing me an
area or two
where my atti-
tude may need
some work?
