**Sermon Series:**

**HOW TO ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR LIFE**

*(a verse-by-verse study of Philippians)*

***Pursuing The Goal of Christlikeness*** *(Part 1)*

**Philippians 3:12-16**

Paul was a master at using \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to instruct and inspire believers in various areas of the Christian life.

To Paul, the runner is a picture of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the race is a picture of the Christian \_\_\_\_\_.

What we have in these verses are the steps that each of us must take if we’re going to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in our pursuit of the goal of Christlikeness.

**I. Requires A Clear-minded** *(v 12)*

There are ***2******things*** that every believer needs to understand if they’re going to make progress toward the goal of Christlikeness**:**

**A. We Need To Understand Where** *(v 12a)*

Paul’s use of the word ***“this”*** is a reference to spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, complete conformity to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The word ***“obtained”*** comes from a Greek word that means “to grasp, to seize, or to attain.” It’s a word that points to the past, and specifically to the time of Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What Paul is saying was that he didn’t receive spiritual perfection by a single act in the past, and that he \_\_\_\_\_\_ wasn’t perfect.

Spiritual growth begins with an understanding that you’re simply not what you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be.

We must never allow ourselves to reach the dangerous place where we become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with our present spiritual condition!

We all start our pursuit of Christlikeness the same way Paul did - with an awareness that we have a lot of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to do.

**B. We Need To Understand Where We *(****v 12b)*

The phrase ***“I press on”*** comes from a Greek word that means “to follow after, to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to chase.”

Paul was pursuing something with the enthusiasm, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and persistence of a runner in a race.

In other words, “My goal in life is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ’s goal for my life. I want for me what Christ wants for me!”

***And what is that? It is !***

The purpose for which we have been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is to be the purpose for which we \_\_\_\_\_\_!

Becoming like Christ involves a balance between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ effort, and relying upon \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ resources.

**Conclusion:**

***Perfection in this life is a*** *\_\_\_\_\_\_****, not an achievement.***

***It’s something that we*** *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****, not something that we attain!***

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