

## **Digging Deeper: Philippians 3:12-16**

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### **Day 1**

Read through and pray over Phil 3:12-16

Phil 3:12: “Not that I have already obtained all this” Paul is continuing his statement from verse ten regarding his goal to fully know Christ. Paul desires to know God and to be made perfect like his savior Christ Jesus. None of this Paul claims to have already achieved. In all that Paul has done and all that Paul is suffering for Christ he has not yet arrived at perfection and he will continue to press on and move forward in his pursuit. Read Romans 8:29-30. We are called by God for his purpose and he has predestined us to conform to the image of Jesus. We are to mirror Christ. This may seem hard and not even possible however God promises to complete his work in us all the way to glorification. God’s grace calls us to press on. Are you pressing forward daily to conform to the image of Christ? Pray and press on.

### **Day 2**

Phil 3:13: In this verse Paul again affirms that he does not have a hold of his goal yet. Paul has not yet arrived at his destination to be Christlike. He continues to move forward in his pursuit. Paul then drops a jewel of wisdom he has learned to do along the way. Paul doesn't look back on his past. He presses on straining towards his goal. Paul by his own words considered himself the worst sinner (1 Timothy 1:15). His previous mission was to persecute and arrest the followers of Christ. Yet Paul kept this past in his rear view, not looking back. Paul also in his words had reason to boast in himself (Philippians 3:4-6). Yet again Paul did not rest in these accomplishments. He put his failures and accomplishments behind him in order to focus on what was still ahead. Do you find yourself getting consumed by thoughts of your past failures? Do you keep a mental tally or record of the ways you have served Christ and his Church? The events you have supported, the Sundays you've volunteered, The people you've invited to church? Leave the past in the past and don't be consumed by it. Pray continuously today and don't give room to allow these things to alter your forward progress.

### **Day 3**

Phil 3:14: Here Paul reminds us of the prize that we are to be focusing our attention on. The prize is God’s heavenly calling lived out in our lives. That you would be saying and doing exactly what God has planned for you. For this we are to strain towards with full attention and intention. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. We must not run aimlessly but with purpose the race marked out for each of us. We need to discipline and train our bodies so that we may win the prize. What does it look like to run the race? How can you discipline and train your body for God’s high calling in your life? Meditate on these questions today.

### **Day 4**

Phil 3:15: Mature Christians have the same understanding as Paul. Striving to be Christlike is a daily posture that we must present ourselves for regardless of how far we've come. A deeper walk with the Lord has no end. *“I am not what I ought to be; I am not what I want to be; I am not what I hope to be in another world, but still I am not what I once used to be, and by God's grace I am what I am”* (John Newton). Just when you think you have arrived or fully matured, God will reveal otherwise. Are you in a consistent and constant pursuit of Christ? In what ways are you deepening your walk with Christ?

### **Day 5**

Phil 3:16: Paul goes on to say “Nevertheless, we must live up to what we have already attained”. Whatever depth of truth and knowledge of Christ and his ways that we have ascertained, we must live up to them. Read 2 Peter 3:17-18. We must be accountable for what Christ has already revealed to us. Pray and consider his revelations to you.