

BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS SERIES:

# *Joy in Christ*

Philippians 3: 12 - 16

## **Running The Race Of Life**

Denis Wade

# The Ancient Games – Wrestling, Boxing, Running





# For We Do Not Wrestle Against Flesh And Blood –

Ephesians 6:12





# Fight The Good Fight Of Faith – 1 Tim 6:12





# I Run That I May Obtain The Prize – 1 Cor 9:24-26





# I Press Towards The Goal To Win The Prize - Phil

3:14







# PAUL'S CONFESSION – Three things to tell you!

Philippians 13:12

1. I have not yet achieved
2. I have not yet reached perfection
3. But I press on to possess that perfection

Philippians 13:12

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.



# MY PAST ACHIEVEMENTS ARE NOTHING!

Philippians 13:12

Compared to receiving and knowing  
Christ!

Philippians 13:12a

I don't mean to say that I have already  
achieved these things or that I have  
already reached perfection.





# I NOW HAVE A NEW GOAL - For My Life

Philippians 13:12

I now follow Jesus Christ!

My goal in life is to obtain Christlikeness and ultimately to achieve eternal life!

Philippians 13:12b

But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.





# WE ALL HAVE A PAST

My past achievements were

- My Heritage
- My Nationality
- My Education
- My Career
- My Status

Following Christ is now my life's ambition

My past achievements I count as nothing, compared to knowing and following Christ!





## WHAT I DO NOW

### Philippians 13:12

- I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first took a hold of me!
- Jesus Christ has an intention for me! He desires that I run the race, finish the course and win the prize.

Philippians 3:12b But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.





# MY PAST FAILURES

We all have past failures!

Looking at my past and present failures, I can't allow them to hinder my walk with Christ and my Race for Life.

- My Pre-Christ failures
- My Post-Christ failures
- My Current failures
- My Inadequacies
- My Faults
- My Failures



## **DESPITE ALL THAT - THIS ONE THING I DO!**

Philippians 3:13 - 14

<sup>13</sup> No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.





# I FOCUS ON ONLY ONE THING!

Philippians 3:13 - 14

I Press Onwards

I Press Forwards

I Press Towards the Finishing Line!

I Strain myself to reach the goal!



# I Have One Goal in This Life

Philippians 3:13 - 14

- My only **goal** in life, is to win the **prize** of life, which is the Heavenly prize, given to us by God.
- God is calling us through Jesus Christ to **win** the **race** of life and receive the **prize** of life, which is **eternal life!**
- God is rooting for us, to **run** well and to **win** well!





# SO HOW EXACTLY DOES THIS WORK?

Philippians 3:13 – 14

1. I Run the Race
2. I Finish the Course (Death)
3. I Receive the Prize of Life (Eternal Life)



# PAUL'S SINGLE GOAL IN LIFE

Philippians 3:13 - 14

- The **Prize** of Life is **Eternal life**, but first comes **death** (finishing the Race) and then the **resurrection** of the dead!
- Paul's goal was to obtain the **Resurrection** of the dead, unto **eternal life**, which is the **prize of Life**!





## PAUL'S CONCLUSION

Philippians 3: 15

<sup>15</sup> Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you.

God will deal with those who

- Who don't understand
- Who don't agree



## PAUL'S ASSERTION

Philippians 3: 16

<sup>16</sup> But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

- We've made some ground
- We must press onward
- The prize is in our view!