

REJOICE | NOT A TRIVIAL PURSUIT

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

Kevin Conklin | 6.15.2025

Philippians 1:21

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 3:8

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

Philippians 3:10-11

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:12

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own.

I Press on toward becoming Christ-like.

A It requires us wanting to take hold of Jesus as our goal.
Philippians 3:12 / Acts 9

B It requires us to let go of our failures and past.
Philippians 3:13 / 2 Corinthians 5:17

Philippians 3:13

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- C It requires a daily and life-long relentless pursuit and focus.
Philippians 3:13-14 / Hebrews 6:1 / 1 Corinthians 9:24 /
2 Timothy 4:7 / Acts 20:24

Philippians 3:14-15

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

1 Corinthians 9:24

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

II Point the way for others in becoming Christ-like.

- A Consider the example you are giving.
Philippians 3:17 / 1 Corinthians 11:1 / Philippians 2:5-8

Philippians 3:17

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

- B Consider the examples you are following.
Philippians 3:18-19
- C Consider those who've walked away or are far away.
Philippians 3:18-19 / Romans 16:18-19

Philippians 3:18-19

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

III Pursue heavenly citizenship to be with Jesus.

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.

- A Where do you want to live?
Philippians 3:20 / Matthew 6:9-10
- B Who are you longing for?
Philippians 3:20-21 / Philippians 1:21
- C What are you living for?
Philippians 3:20 / 2 Timothy 4:7-8

2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.