

## **RACING FOR THE PRIZE**

**An Exposition of Philippians 3:12-16**  
**By Pastor Brent Tremblay, posted Sunday, April 26, 2020**

### **Sermon Outline**

Theme: Paul does not want to be misunderstood, as though this 'perfection' in Christ is so complete that we no longer have to work at anything. We still need to run the race in order to win the prize.

#### **1. Not Arrived (v12)**

"I have not obtained" – What? The full resurrected lifestyle from v11.

We are 'already' perfected in Christ (Heb 10:14), but 'not yet' entirely conformed into His image (Rom 8:29)

#### **2. I'm Pressing On To Make It My Own (v12b)**

Because Christ has first made me His own, I am now going to make Him – the pursuit of Him – my own.

#### **3. The Journey Ahead (v13)**

- i. Forget the past (v13b)
- ii. Look straight ahead into the future (v13c)

"Straining", "one goal", and "running for the prize" (1 Cor 9:24-27)

Christ is calling us 'upward', or to Himself.

Romance! (Song 2:10; 5:2; 1:16; 5:16)

#### **4. Spiritual Maturity (v15)**

Still a lot of work to be done in us.

Grace! God will help by "revealing" to us our errant ways.  
(Song 2:8)

Maintain your spiritual disciplines. (Song 3:2)

## **Bible Study Questions**

- 1. What was the cause for Paul's "rejoicing"? (3:1)**
  
- 2. What was it that Paul had not yet "obtained"? (v12) (v11) Describe the lifestyle that he was talking about.**
  
- 3. What does it mean to be at once "perfected" in Christ (Heb 10:14), yet still not perfected (Rom 8:29)?**
  
- 4. For what reason did Paul strive to make Christ's life his own? (v12b) How did these changes begin in his life?**
  
- 5. What was Paul's "one objective" in life? (v13-14) What two things did he resolve to do? (v13b) And describe how these two issues are worked out in the believer's life.**
  
- 6. What imagery was Paul trying to convey with the words "straining forward" (v13)? What lesson was he attempting to teach us? (1 Cor 9:24-27)**
  
- 7. How does God keep the believer on track? (v15) What are some of the means that He utilizes? (John 10:3-4) (John 15:4-11) (John 17:17) (Acts 13:2) (Acts 8:29)**
  
- 8. Name several spiritual disciplines that we must maintain in order to grow in Christ. (v16)**