**Pressing toward the Goal!**

(Philippians 3:12-16)

***Paul shows what it takes to press on toward the goal and “win the prize.”***

* Fighting against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with an ordinary life. (3:12-13(a))
* Paul strived to never permitted himself to be satisfied with his spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Paul was satisfied with Jesus Christ, but he was not happy to stay \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in his Christian life. (Phil. 3:10-11)
* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dissatisfaction is essential to completing in the Christian race.
* Who would want to follow someone who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ themselves with others, and was proud of themselves?
* Paul displayed maturity in his actions, because of the realization that he is not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ believer does not pretend to have “arrived” but instead evaluates themselves fairly and strives to do better.
  + A hunger for God is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for our fight against selfishness. (Psalm 42:1-2, Romans 12:2-5)
* Single minded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:13(b))
* The believer must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ themself to running the Christian race.
* Few athletes succeed by doing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; he succeeds by specializing. (James 1:8)
* A precise focus on one’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:13c)
* Pre-Christ we are controlled by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mistakes and cling to our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ victories.
* When we belong to Christ, running the race takes focus toward the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Hebrews 10:16-18)
* Forgetting the past simply means that we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the power of the past by living for the future.
  + We cannot change the past, but we can change the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the past.
* Far too many believers are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by regrets of the past.
  + We cannot run the race to win by looking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + We cannot run the race distracted by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the past.
* To hold to the progress we’ve already made we must remain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:14-16)
* We do not win by listening to sermons, watching Christian movies, reading self-help books, or cheering for other believers.
* We win by getting into the game and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to win!
* We must avoid these two extremes of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to determine our strong finish:
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ works are the responsibility of the believer and God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so I am not responsible for anything.
  + Both extremes are incorrect, God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to change the world. It is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ work initiated by Him and completed by him.

**So What Now?**

* The goal we press towards is not temporary but one that lasts forever.
  + - * Fight against discontentment with an ordinary life unproductive Christian life.
      * Display single minded dedication to God’s purpose for you.
      * Focus on His precise direction.
      * Remain disciplined to finish strong.

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