

PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK
Part One: The Pursuit of Christ

Text: Philip. 3:7-12

I. OUR _____ IS CHRIST (vs. 7-11).

- In past, present, and future:
- A. He is Our Priceless _____ (vs. 7-9)**
 - All things once counted gain but now loss = Paul's entire resume of self-righteousness (vs. 4-6).
 - Paul's life motto (vs. 8) = "That I may _____ Christ."
 - He wanted to "_____ Him"—not just about Him but to know Him personally.
 - He wanted to be "_____ in Him" (vs. 9) = same as knowing and winning Him.
 - To be "in Christ," we must receive the gift of God's _____:
 - Source of righteousness = "of God."
 - Means of righteousness = "by _____."

B. He Is Our Present _____ (vs. 10)

- Paul desired four things from Christ in the present:
 - "That I may know Him" = Christ _____.
 - "The power of His Resurrection" = Christ _____.
 - "The fellowship of His sufferings" = Christ _____ (best in sufferings).
 - "Being made conformable to His death" = Christ _____ through deliverance from sin and death to self.

C. He Is Our Future _____ (vs. 11)

- The _____ is the ultimate prize and finish line of the Christian life.
- The "out-resurrection" from the dead = believers will be raised from the dead while _____ will remain behind in the ground and stay dead.
- "Attain" = not to earn it but to _____ it.
- "If by any means" = not that Paul had doubts about his salvation but that he didn't _____ such a great finish.

II. OUR _____ OF CHRIST (vs. 12).

A. The Direction Is Toward _____.

- "Not as though I had already attained (obtained)" = Paul still had _____ to do; he had not yet received everything Christ wanted to give Him.

- "Either were already perfect (perfected)" = he was not yet _____ or a finished masterpiece in Christ.
- "I follow after" = the _____ and mode of Paul's life and should be ours as well.
 - "Follow after" = "to _____, or press hard after something, or press on toward a goal."
 - Christ's job as our leader is to set the pace and direction, and our job is to follow hard and _____ after Him.

B. The Process Is _____.

- While the power of perfection is all of God, the _____ is all of us (Philip. 1:6, 2:12-13).
 - Apprehend = "to _____ eagerly or with earnestness, or to take something by exertion."
 - Paraphrase: "If so be that I may lay hands on, or take hold of, grasp, or seize that for which I have been seized by Jesus Christ."
- Christ has already laid His hands on us lovingly and eagerly for a finished work in our lives, but now we are to _____ that for which we have been seized.
- The Christian life is not about standing still, treading water, or waiting around for God to zap you with a lightning bolt; it's about intentionally _____ Christ.

CONCLUSION

- Three questions by way of application:
 - 1. Are you still following after Christ with as much _____ and faithfulness as you were at the start of 2020?**
 - 2. Are you at this moment _____ Jesus Christ for all you're worth?**
 - 3. What is the next _____ in following Christ for you?**
- Right now, this New Year of 2021, is the time to pursue Jesus Christ.