

PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK
Part Three: The Present Pressing

Text: Philip. 3:13-15

- The believer's proper attitude toward the future and the present.

I. OUR FUTURE _____ (vs. 13-14)

A. The _____ of our prize

- "Those things which are before" = the "in _____ of things" = everything Christ has in mind and store for you in the future.
- "Reaching forth" = "to _____ out to grab something" or "to lean forward to seize the prize" like a runner straining forward with his body to be the first one over the finish line.
 - Even though the pressing believer doesn't live in the future, he or she is ever mindful of the future and striving toward a future goal.
 - The right focus on the future always impacts our _____ in the present.

B. The _____ of our prize (vs. 14)

- "I press toward [down upon] the mark [like a runner putting on an extra burst of speed as he sees the finish line ahead of him];"
- The _____ (finish line) = "the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
 - "The high calling" = the _____ calling or invitation of God.
 - The day we are called upward, that day of the "_____ " from the dead and the Rapture for living believers.
- Question: On day of the upward calling, will you be summoned to the winner's stand to receive a crown?
 - "_____ " (vs. 14) = kind of wreath or garland used to crown a winner in the public games.

II. OUR PRESENT _____ (vs. 14)

- Running well in the present requires four things:

A. Good _____

- We attach ourselves to a good foundation by _____ in the Word, promises, love, faithfulness of God.

B. Focused _____

- We musts eliminate _____.

C. Personal _____

- Continuing, consistent attention to _____ and _____ disciplines.

D. Strenuous _____

- Required to _____ practical disciplines and overcome _____.
- Application: Are you _____ in the present to win the future prize?
 - The one thing that matters in your Christian life = how you are running right _____.
 - The Christian life is pressing in the present.

III. OUR PERSONAL _____ (vs. 15)

- "Perfect" = not _____ perfect, but positionally perfect in Christ's righteousness and _____ for complete perfection on the day of resurrection.
- If you're saved and on your way to heaven, then live and run like Paul.
- If you're not sure whether you're doing it _____, ask God, and He'll tell you.

CLOSING

- Object Lesson: A demonstration of the right running _____ for the Christian life—forgetting, reaching, pressing.
- Question: If someone were to take a spiritual _____ of your Christian life in the here and now, would it look like this?