

## **The Restless Race of Those who Rest in Grace (Phil 3:12-16) Pt II**

- Last week we started looking at v12-16: using the metaphor of a runner

**The restless power of grace in Paul's life:** 3:12,14 "I press on" twice

### **I. The starting blocks: Paul's passionate pursuit of the prize**

- Paul's pursuit of Christ: motivated by his rest & hope found in Christ

### **II. The Running: Forgetting and Pressing Forward (3:13,14)**

- Paul said in verse 12 that he had not obtained his goal so he presses on
- In v13,14 he covers the same ground but with more detail & emphasis
- v13 &14 he describes: single minded strenuous pursuit in the present
- The things that are behind (13): Judaism & all past Christian blessings
- "reaching forward" captures marathon runner every muscle engaged

### **III. The Goal & Prize: To Know Christ in His Fullness (3:14)**

- The prize which Paul pursues, is to gain Christ in fullness of His glory
- Paul is in Christ but he is not complete, he wants all Christ has for him
- Our perfection / maturity will be ours only fully in glory "upward call"

### **IV. The Runners Perspective: Humble, Patient, and Hopeful (3:15,16)**

- vs 12 "not that I am perfect" in v15 same word, "perfect mature ones"
- Mature in Christ realize as they grow they're far from having arrived
- Our maturity causes us to see, our own weakness & to help others
- "if any think otherwise" some could have disagreed with Paul's point
- God will "mature those who think differently" bring them in line. Though we are still far from perfect, remain true to what God has done