

### **The Passionate Restless Race of Those Who Rest in Grace Phil 3:11-16 (I)**

- The free gift of grace in saving Paul did not make him complacent
- He abandoned a life marked by striving & achieving of his former life
- Before his conversion Paul believed he attained to true blamelessness
- The blindness that afflicted him afflicted the Judaizers (Rom 10:2-4)
- The risen, conquering Christ showed Paul how lost he was (Acts 9:3-6)
- Paul rested in a righteousness not his own, which energized him more  
“gain[ing] Christ, “be[ing] found in Christ,” & “knowing Christ Jesus my Lord” (3:8–11)

### **I. Paul’s Witness: Example of the Restless Power of Grace (3:12-14)**

- Paul wanted more, so much more of what he had experienced in Christ
- The grace we have received invites us to greater grace ahead
- The Judaizers were promoting a way of works plus grace to perfection
- Christian life, says Paul, must be seen as a race: “we press on” (12,14)
- **Press on**, “pursue”: persistently upward quest for a precious reward
- 13b “Reaching forward to what lies ahead,” “the goal,” & “the prize

### **II. The Starting Blocks: Resting in the Gracious Embrace of Christ**

- Paul, confident in grace received, energized to pursue what will be his
- In Christ, Paul had not obtained the whole treasure of knowing Christ
- Christ seized him but he is straining forward to seize more of Christ
- Grace received, launched him, in an upward call, he took responsibility
- God’s sovereignty (Acts 27:23–26) & grace energize us (1 Cor 15: 9,10)