

## **APPLICATION**

? Are you following Jesus with the same mind and dogged tenacity as Paul describes here?

### **KEEPING ME EYES ON THE PRIZE**

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Philippians 3:12-16  
From: Scott Carlson  
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### **INTRODUCTION: FOLLOWING JESUS**

Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."

Many are the examples of those who followed Christ, but only halfheartedly.

Many are the examples of those who come to Jesus on their own terms.

Matthew 8:21-22

Many are those who will not give up what they have to gain what they cannot earn.

#### **Matthew 19:21**

Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Acts 2:37, 38

In Philippians 3, Paul draws a clear line of distinction between those who are not followers of Jesus and those who are.

In Philippians 3:1-11, Paul explains how one comes to faith in Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-21 explains how a true Christian continues in their faith.

Paul shows four qualities of a true follower of Christ as He continues His life as a Christian.

## **I. IMPERFECTLY PRESSING ON**

Perfect means:

### **A. I PRESS ON**

There should be an intensity to the Christian life.

Just because God does the work of salvation doesn't mean that...

Philippians 2:12, 13

### **B. TO MAKE IT MY OWN**

? What is Paul striving to make his own?

#### **Romans 6:4**

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Paul is saying here that ...

**Point:** A true follower of Jesus has a desire to be like Jesus and to achieve resurrection life.

## **II. FORGETFULLY STRAINING FORWARD**

### A. FORGETTING WHAT LIES BEHIND

### B. STRAINING FORWARD

There is a doggedness to the Christian life.

? What are we reaching for?

**Point:** A true follower of Jesus has a focus and doggedness to be like Jesus and to live the resurrection life now.

## **III. MATURELY THINKING**

### A. MATURITY IS MARKED BY YOUR MANNER OF THINKING

#### **Proverbs 23:7a**

For as he thinks within himself, so he is.

#### **Matthew 12:34**

You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

## **Matthew 22:37b**

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

## **B. YOUR THOUGHTS ARE GOVERNED BY GOD**

Galatians 3:3

Philippians 2:12, 13

### **1. WITH HIS WORD**

Psalm 119; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:3

### **2. WITH HIS SPIRIT**

James 4:5; John 14:25-26

### **3. THROUGH TRIALS**

1 Peter 5:10; James 1:2-4

### **4. THROUGH SPIRITUAL LEADERS**

(Ephesians 4:11ff.; 1 Thessalonians 3:10; Philippians 3:17)

### **5. THROUGH CHASTENING**

Hebrews 12

**Point:** A true follower of Jesus has a mental fortitude that keeps him going.

## **IV. TRULY HOLDING TO WHAT WE HAVE**

**Point:** A true follower of Jesus takes stock of where he is and keeps pressing on in that same way.

## **CONCLUSION**

? How did the Philippians hear these words from Paul?