

Edgemont Bible Church
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Philippians

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Intro: A Place for Sports fandom in Christianity - Paul's use of fight, race, wrestle, context of 3:4-11, with all those benefits, some might think that Paul must have been almost perfect.

XI. Reaching for the Prize

A. Proper Awareness - Php 3:12a

1. Not that I have **already** attained - **Lambano** - to take, accept, + be amazed, assay, attain, bring, catch, have, hold, obtain, receive, take (away, up).
2. or am **already** perfected - **Teleioo** - to complete, i.e. (literally) accomplish, or consummate (in character):--consecrate, finish, fulfil, make) perfect.
3. Areas that Paul acknowledges the need for improvement
 - a. Knowledge - 1 Co 13:12
 - b. Righteousness in Practice - 2 Co 7:1
 - c. Power of God worked through Weakness - 2 Co 12:9
 - d. Didn't always know how to Pray - Ro 8:26-27
 - e. Physically - Phil 3:21
4. In order to pursue the best, you have to be dissatisfied with the rest

B. Maximum Effort - vs 12b

1. but I press on, -
 - a. **Dioko** - to pursue or run after; by implication, to persecute:--ensue, follow (after), given to, (suffer) persecute(-ion), press forward. It speaks of aggressive, energetic, endeavor.
 - b. The idea of let go and let God is foreign in Paul's Biblical worldview of sanctification
 - i. dependent on God's power working in him - 2 Co 12:9; Col 1:29
 - ii. Described the Christian life as
 - labor and striving - Col 1:29
 - the good fight of faith - 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7
 - iii. Taught we enter the kingdom thru many tribulations - Acts 14:22
 - iv. Stressed the inevitability of suffering - Ro 8:17; 1 Thess 3:4; 2Tim 1:8; 3:12
2. that I may lay hold of - vs 12c
 - a. **Katalambano** - to take eagerly, seize, possess, apprehend, attain, come upon, comprehend, find, obtain, perceive, (over-)take.

- b. States the goal of the strenuous efforts
 - 3. that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.
- C. Focused Concentration – vs 13
- 1. Brethren, - a gentle intimate affection term to move the hearts away from the Judaizers.
 - 2. I do not count myself to have apprehended;
 - a. **Logizomai** - to take an inventory, estimate, conclude, (ac-)count (of), esteem, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on).
 - b. 3rd time Paul says this showing that contrary to the false teacher's claim, spiritual perfection is not attainable in this life.
 - 3. Paul's singlemindedness communicated
 - a. *but one thing I do*, - Understood and placed by translators
 - b. Singlemindedness has both a negative side and a positive side
 - i. The Negative - forgetting those things which are behind
 - **Epilanthanomai** - to lose out of mind; by implication, to neglect:--(be) forget(-ful of).
 - **Opiso** - to the back, i.e. aback (as adverb or preposition of time or place; or as noun):--after, back(-ward), (+ get) behind, + follow.
 - ii. The Positive - reaching forward to those things which are ahead,
 - **Epekteinomai** - to stretch (oneself) forward upon, reach forth. Describes stretching a muscle to its limit.
 - **Emprosthen** - in front of (in place or time):--against, at, before, (in presence, sight) of.

D. Proper Motivation – vs 14

- 1. I press – **dioko** - denotes Paul's continuous effort to pursue the "impossible dream" and defeat the "unbeatable foe"
- 2. toward the goal - **Skopos** - a mark on which to fix one's eyes
- 3. for the prize of - **Brabeion** - an award (of arbitration), i.e. (specially) a prize in the public games:--prize.
- 4. the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 - a. **Ano** - upward denoting both the source of the call and where it leads
 - b. **Klesis** - an invitation (figuratively):--calling.

E. A Proper Recognition – vs 15

- 1. Therefore let us, as many as are mature,
 - a. **teleios** - complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); completeness: of full age, man, perfect.
 - b. Two types of perfection, maturity

- i. Positional - Heb 10:14
 - ii. Practical - comes when we see Christ - 1 Jo 3:1-3
- c. Paul's use of perfect may be a slight slam on the Judaizers who were not perfect practically or positionally
- 2. have this mind; (attitude) - **Phroneo** - to exercise the mind, i.e. entertain or have a sentiment or opinion; Lit., think this way
 - a. 1Co 2:16 - we have the mind of Christ
 - b. Pro 4:23 - Keep your heart with all diligence
- 3. and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. -
 - a. **Apokalupto** - to take off the cover, i.e. disclose:--reveal.
 - b. if you don't heed Paul's message, you will hear the same thing from God

F. A Proper Conformity – Phil 3:16

- 1. Nevertheless, - **plen** - moreover, however. Could be translated—one more thing
- 2. to the degree that we have already **attained**, - **Phthano** - to be beforehand, i.e. anticipate or precede; by extension, to have arrived at:--(already) attain, come, prevent.
- 3. let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.
 - a. **Stoicheo** - to march in (military) rank (keep step), i.e. (figuratively) to conform to virtue and piety:--walk (orderly). Keep Living
 - b. **Kanon** - a rule ("canon"), i.e. (figuratively) a standard (of faith and practice); by implication, a boundary, i.e. (figuratively) a sphere (of activity):--line, rule.
- 4. Four divinely provided resources to help us continually pursue the prize of Christlikeness
 - a. The Word of God - 1 Pet 2:2; 2 Pet 1:3-4
 - b. Prayer - 2 Co 13:9 - that you may be made complete.
 - c. Godly Examples - 1 Co 4:16 - Therefore I urge you, imitate me.
 - d. Trials - Ro 5:3-5; Jms 1:2-4 - 1 Pet 5:10 - after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.