

Pure Joy: Pursuing the Prize (Philippians 3:12-16)

1. Honest Evaluation: vs.12a

- A. _____ with true condition: (30yrs after conversion)
1. “Not” – listen everyone, make no mistake
 2. I have **not** reached perfection and/or obtained the prize – I’m not there yet!
- B. _____ ignites hunger for more, progress: Therefore I still have a lot of work to do!
1. **Phil3:10,11** – I know Him...His power...His fellowship... but not fully
 2. I cannot coast or take it easy, I have to put my foot on the gas pedal! *BECAUSE I know Him!*

2. Tenacious Initiative: vs.12b (this is a deep hunger that overrides everything else!)

- A. “I press on” – usually translated in NT, to be persecuted, which means to be chased, run out of town
1. Press on, is an aggressive, bearing down on, **Ex.** like a lion bearing down on antelope!
 2. Paul is chasing after a prize (**vs. 7-8**) *the Lord Jesus Christ – with all his might!
 3. Example: runner pursuing the finish line, w/ all his energy he presses forward!
- B. What is he pressing on to do? _____
1. to lay hold of that for which he was laid hold of by Christ...
 2. “lay hold” – is a strong verb, to seize with aggressive effort
 3. “that for which I was laid hold of” – full knowledge of Christ and His purpose (**Acts26:16-20**)

3. Singular Resolve: vs.13,14

- A. ONE _____: my life has resolve for only ONE THING!
1. One ambition - narrow focus, like looking through a keyhole on ONE ambition, the Prize!
 2. The one thing of vs. 13 is vs.14 – to win the prize
- B. ONE _____ to have singular resolve...
1. The hindrance/weight...Forget what is behind... *3 things hinder and weigh us down...
 1. past sins (**1Tim1:13-15; Ps103:11,12; Rom8:1; Mic7:18-19**) – BELIEVE GOD!!!
 2. past hurts – think of Paul... consider Joseph; **Gen41:51! Mannasseh!** – bitterness and un-forgiveness are a weight!!!
 3. past successes – **2Cor12:7** – pride brings prayerlessness and self-reliance
 2. The resolve...Reach forward; 2 prefixes in Gk. word, means (stretch...stretch)
- C. ONE _____: I will press on and grab hold of the only thing that matters to me – Jesus Christ!
1. The longer Paul runs, the harder he bears down/presses on and the faster he runs!!!
 2. Paul is running his best race towards the end of his life! **Why?** _____
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3. All things in him and in his life are all moving w/ one resolve for one goal – Christ!

Conclusion: vs.15,16 ; Romans13:10-14

1. _____ and start running – quit eating cheeseburgers and fries and sitting on the sofa!
2. Put _____ the deeds of darkness – lengthen your stride; stretch out in faith and love
3. _____ the Lord Jesus Christ – put on His attitude and focus of obedience
 - *Make the priority of your life to love Christ with all your heart
 - *Make this your prayer everyday – Lord Jesus, be my ONE pursuit – to know and love You fully!