

# Tossed No More

Last Sunday, we looked in the mirror and asked, *Are we still on milk?* The Hebrew writer was frustrated with his readers. Years in the church without growth in Christ. Today, Paul shows us the antidote. It's a way of being. It's a way of leaning. It's the mind of the mature Christian — and you cannot fake it from the outside. The mature aren't the ones who've arrived. They're the ones who know they haven't, and keep pressing.

## I. Not That I've Obtained It

- A. Philippians 3:12: *Not that I have **already** reached the goal or am **already** perfect, ...*
  - 1. The thing he is most insistent on refusing is *already-ness*.
  - 2. Maturity looks like a man who refuses to claim to be finished.
- B. Philippians 3:12 (ESV): *I **press on** to make it my own, ...*
  - 1. "press on" — to pursue. To chase. To hunt.
  - 2. 3:6: *Persecuting*. Same Greek word. Pursuing, chasing, hunting.
  - 3. Same intensity. Same fire. Same drive. **Redirected**.
- C. Philippians 3:12: *...because I also have been **taken hold of** by Christ Jesus.*
  - 1. "Taken hold of:" to seize, to grab.
  - 2. Paul just said: I press on to lay hold of, because Christ Jesus has laid hold of me.
  - 3. **A reciprocal grip**. Paul's pursuit is a response, not a foundation.

## II. Forgetting and Straining

- A. Philippians 3:13: *But **one thing I do**: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead,*
  - 1. What is the one thing your life is leaning toward?
  - 2. Pick it. Plant it. Lean toward it.
- B. Philippians 3:13: **Forgetting** what is behind ...
  - 1. Forgetting is not amnesia, and it is not "ignore your past."
  - 2. The runner doesn't have a rear-view mirror. *He's not looking back at all.*
- C. Philippians 3:13: **straining** toward what is ahead,
  - 1. "stretching yourself out toward." The runner is *out beyond himself*. That's maturity.
- D. Philippians 3:14: *I pursue as my **goal** the **prize** promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.*
  - 1. The goal is the mark a runner fixes their eye on.
  - 2. What is the prize? *The prize is **knowing Christ** fully, finally, face to face, i.e., Christ himself.*

## III. Think This Way

- A. Philippians 3:15: *Therefore, let all of us who are mature **think** this way.*
  - 1. The mind of vv. 12–14 is **not optional**. If you are mature, this is how you think.
  - 2. Paul says **think** this way. Set your mind here.
  - 3. A mind locked on Christ is not blown around.
- B. Grace for the slow learner
  - 1. Philippians 3:15: *And if you think differently about anything, God **will reveal** this also to you.*
    - a) He keeps revealing. He keeps shaping. He keeps growing.
  - 2. Philippians 3:16: *In any case, we should **live up to** whatever truth we have attained.*
    - a) In other words, keep what you have, and trust him with the rest.
    - b) You belong by **pressing on**.

## IV. As We Close

- A. What is the portrait of the mature Christian?
- B. Not the saint admiring the trophies. It is the runner who is **still leaning**.
- C. Today is a good day to set the mind. What will you choose?