



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **Pressing On Toward the Goal**
Series: **The Radical Guide to Joy**
Text: **Philippians 3:12-21**
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **November 2, 2025**

WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIALS FOR WINNING THE RACE?

1. YOU NEED TO HAVE HOLY _____

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. (Php 3:12–13a).

2. YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON _____!

*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made **PERFECT**, but **I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.** 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. (Php 3:12–13a).*

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Php. 3:13b-14)

What do you need to forget today?

- _____ that preach shame.
- _____ that whisper complacency.
- _____ that drain joy.

What are you straining towards? _____

“Everybody is straining toward something. The question isn’t whether you’re pursuing a prize—it’s whether you’ve picked the right one.”

3. YOU SHOULD LIVE UP TO YOUR _____ LEVEL.

***All of us who are MATURE** should take such a view of things. And if on some point you **think differently**, that too God will make clear to you. 16 **Only let us live up to what we have already attained.** (Php 3:15–16).*

WORD STUDY - _____ (τέλειος)

τέλειος (telios) is a rich and multifaceted concept with nuanced meanings across philosophical, religious, and linguistic contexts. Importantly, the term carries an inherent ambiguity, being used in **both relative and absolute senses**. In a Christian context, **being “perfect” doesn’t mean absolute flawlessness**, but rather **aiming to be fully established in the knowledge and practice of God’s ways**.

4. YOU SHOULD _____ YOUR LIFE WISELY

*Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live **according to the pattern we gave you.** (Php 3:17).*

*For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their **destiny is destruction**, their **god is their stomach**, and **their glory is in their shame**. Their **mind is on earthly things.** (Php 3:18–19).*

*“20 But **our citizenship is in heaven**. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, **by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control**, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” (Php. 3:20-21)*

A Prayer to pray!

“Father, through your Son Jesus, You took hold of me. Take hold of me anew today. I release what is behind—my sin, my shame, my self-satisfaction. Fix my gaze on You. Give me a mature, single-minded heart. Conform me to Your cross and fill me with resurrection hope. I press on toward You, my Prize. In Jesus name, amen.”