

In what ways are you living now that provide tangible evidence to others that you are looking forward to that future hope?

In what ways could you change your present perspective to be better prepared for that day?

How can we be praying for one another in such a way that we would be more effectively reaching toward the goal together?

Digging Deeper (for further study):

6. What does this passage teach us about the importance of growing in spiritual maturity?

How does Paul's example show us that this pursuit of growth ought to be ongoing, no matter at what stage we are in life?

In what ways does that reminder challenge you to think about the example you're setting for others to follow and how that example is pointing others toward Christ?

Moving Toward Maturity
Philippians 3:12-16
March 22, 2015

1. The Cooperative Work of Sanctification (v. 12)

✧ I have not arrived...

✧ The work Jesus started...

2. The Eternal Goal of Sanctification (v. 13-14)

✧ I have not arrived...

✧ Moving on...

✧ Toward the goal...

3. The Present Focus of Sanctification (v. 15-16)

✧ Growth measured by maturity...

✧ Living in the present...

3. If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, you can say with Paul that Jesus has “laid hold of” you (v. 12). What does that teach you about your present identity (who you were before compared to who you are now)?

How can a right understanding of our identity in Christ help shape our pursuit of “the goal”?

4. When Christ grabbed hold of Paul, all of his priorities changed. Refer back to Philippians 3:1-11 if it would be helpful. Now, how do we see his words in verses 12-16 reflecting these new priorities?

Message-Based Discussion Questions

1. As you reflect on the message, what was one observation, application, or insight that stood out to you?

2. Read the message text, Philippians 3:12-16, and consider how this would have impacted you if you were a part of the Philippian church reading it for the first time. How would Paul’s own example push you to react and respond?

What are some practical conclusions we can draw from the changed priorities in Paul’s life? In other words, how should our priorities mirror Paul’s?

Practicing It Together:

5. How are you looking forward to the day when you will fully “know” Christ for the first time (the day of your glorification, when you attain the prize)?