

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Questions:

In Philippians 3:12-16 we discover that the mature Christian is...

- 1) Realistic
- 2) Forgetful and
- 3) Focused

1. Paul's perspective on his own walk with Christ was that he had not already arrived at the goal for which Christ had taken hold of him, even though he was instrumental in taking the gospel to the Gentiles. To what degree and in what ways should we adopt a similar perspective about our own lives?

2. Paul talks about "forgetting what is behind"? What types of things should we forget and why should we forget them?

3. As we mature in Christ, how does our focus change and what new prize do we strive for?

4. Philippians 3:7-11 contrasts things that were once perceived to be "gains" in our lives with the "gains" we experience in knowing Christ. This passage says that we will know the "power of His resurrection" and "participate in His sufferings". If we are honest with ourselves, how badly do we want to know Him and how willing are we to suffer for Him?