

Bible Study 07-30-2025

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-14 KJV

Title "Purge and Pursue"

Time waits for no one. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we have the privilege to endure. Study how He stayed the course. He never lost sight of where He was headed. Because His heart was set and He had a determination to do the will of His Father, He could put up with anything along the way.

Vance Havner wrote, "The Christian life should be like a sword with one point, not like a broom ending in many straws. Such a single purpose forgets the past, reaches toward the future, and presses on. There is no time or place for side issues, diversions to the right or to the left. There is no place for hands on the plow with eyes looking back. Paul was a one-track man, but you can go a long way on one track."

God has placed every believer in Christ on the Christian track to run this Christian race with a specific assignment and a goal to achieve. Always make time to assess where you are and honestly evaluate yourselves for areas of improvement. (What did I accomplish today? Did I use my time wisely? Did I consult God first? Did I do my very best or did I do just enough to get by? Is God pleased with my efforts?) Reflect on God's grace and how He has brought you safely this far and run with the end in view.

Philippians 3:12-14 KJV

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect. But I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

NKJV ***"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.***

Having looked forward to the promised resurrection, Paul assesses his present situation. Make no mistake: God's full purpose for Paul is not yet achieved. The resurrection that he will one day have will be the full realization of God's purpose. This is not just for Paul but for all of God's people.

Perfect: indicates the accomplishment of a goal or purpose. Let us remember that we operate in God's time and we are here to serve His purpose. This future perfection is certain as we grow in His grace to become more like Him. **Follow after:** press or pursue after his God given purpose. Continue, proceed.

John 4:34 KJV Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work.

Apprehended: Taken hold of him, to seize him for a purpose. That purpose is that Paul's life should be transformed to be like Christ's life, culminating in resurrection from the dead. So Paul ministers in light of that goal with his entire being. The resurrection from the dead to come shaped his entire ministry effort.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Paul was speaking to fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. He's not there yet but he is willing to give the Lord his all. **2 Corinthians 4:7-8** *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair.*

Forgetting: rid or remove, purge / Let it go. Give no man control or power over you. Love motivates.

Hebrews 12:1 *"...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," Galatians 5:7* *"You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? Paul worked hard to forget the past. For this reason he encourages us to concentrate on the future and leave the past behind. 1 Peter 1:13* *"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The race is nevertheless the pursuit of the goal, in which each moment must bring one closer. If we believe in the Christ who died and rose, the pursuit of the prize becomes all that matters to us. Keep moving toward the prize, the goal toward God's purpose in Christ Jesus. The purpose of being conformed to the image of Christ, to be perfect, even as He is perfect. Perfection means eternal life, a perfect life that never ends. **Songs:** Eternal Life by Swanee Quintet, Heaven is My Goal by Dr. Charles G. Hayes

Thought to Remember:

1 Corinthians 1:18 NIV

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

It is life changing and soul saving. God is always active and working in our lives in ways we cannot see. This includes breaking us free of strongholds and destructive behaviors.

Matthew 5:16 KJV

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

God does not see us the way we view ourselves. There is much in little when you put the little you have in God's capable hands. God is not looking for perfection or a brilliant mind. He requires: sensitivity to His Spirit, humility in service, denying of yourself which means you seek after His kingdom and righteousness instead of your own. God will magnify Himself through you.

Focused on the Goal

Paul is letting us know, "Look, I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made, but I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward-to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. (MSG)

Song: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

The world behind me, the cross before me...No turning back, no turning back.