

**THE GOAL OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**  
**Philippians 3:12-16**

**INTRODUCTION:**

- Since our last in-person worship service, we studied:
  1. “Have No Confidence in the Flesh” (vv. 4-8)
  2. The Surpassing Greatness of Knowing Christ (vv. 9-11)

Today, we will study **The Goal of the Christian Life**. The Goal of the Christian Life is to be Christlike – To Become Mature, Complete and Whole in Christ Jesus.

- I. **“Forget Those Things Which Are Behind”** (v. 13a)
  - A. Paul refused to look back at his past successes.
  - B. Do not compare yourself to others in the race.
  - C. We may allow our past sins and failures to teach us but never to terrorize us, enslave us or hinder the healing of old hurts, disappointments, and painful memories.
  - D. We can be distracted by the past which can debilitate our effects in the present.
  - E. To forget, means to no longer be influenced by, distracted by, or affected by.
  - F. Believers are to forget past attractions to worldly success and worldly pleasures. Paul did – he counted his credentials as waste, rubbish, of no value in terms of Salvation.
  
- II. **“Reaching Forth unto Those Things Which Are Before”** (v. 13b)
  - A. Do not allow your past to hinder your future.
  - B. Reach for Victory
  - C. Reach for Success
  - D. “This One Thing I Do” (v. 13b)
  
- III. **“Press Toward the Mark”** (v. 14)
  - A. Press toward the finish line (Goal)
  - B. Our Crown is Heaven (2 Tim 4:8; 1 Peter 1:4)

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. According to Ecclesiastes 9:11, “the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong” but to the one who hold out.
- B. Remember to do “This One Thing.”
- C. Stay with the Lord – Stay on your knees. Stay in His Word.
- D. A-B-C of Salvation

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).