

# The Goal

(Phil.3)

# Constant corrections to keep on target

Spacecraft

Christian

Ph.3:14 . . . 17

I. Some Pursue in Wrong Way  
(Wrong Goals)

# 1. No purpose

One who is baptized has *arrived*? No!

Mt.3:7-8 – why refuse them?

Pr.26:13-15

Ec.12:13-14

## 2. No purity

1 K.18:21

- Falter between two
- [waver...hesitate...]

No loyalty

No love of truth

No allegiance to God

### 3. No perseverance

Ezk.18:19-24

Valid principle everywhere

Lose health, money, marriage, soul...

Wake up late?

## 4. No passion

Heart...enthusiasm

Build, Lk.14:28-33

Unconditional surrender

Disciples make no demands

Jn.17:11-12 – the only one Jesus could not  
save

## 5. No precision

Ph.3:13, specific goals

“I hope to overcome all my weaknesses”

‘Flat or round’ . . . Ct. “one thing...”

- *Looking back* reveals a divided mind  
(Lk.17:32)
- *Looking back* leads to going back.
  - Ex.14:15



Spiritual failure is . . .

no purpose

no purity

no perseverance

no passion

no precision

I. Some Pursue in Wrong Way

II. Some Pursue the Crown  
in Right Way (4:1)

## 1. Purpose, Ph.3:...7

- “Gain”: three times: 1:21; 3:7-8

## 2. Precision, Ph.3:8

- Wordplay: loss of a loss is gain
- Paul gained Savior (1:21)
- “Loss”: three times: 3:8-9

## 3. Principle, Ph.3:9, not righteousness of law

## 4. Perseverance, Ph.3:10, *know Him...* (1:21-23)

## 5. Passion, 3:11-12

- 11, *if by any means possible...*
  - Not pride
  - Not a done deal
  - Words used of sick child...
    - “If...” 11
    - Press on 12 /14
    - Chrysostom calls Paul an insatiable, greedy, devouring worshipper of God
    - Higher Ground

I. Some Pursue in Wrong Way

II. Some Crave the Crown

III. How to Press for the Prize?

# 1. Don't quit / think you have arrived, 3:12

- 1 Co.9:24, Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.
  - Runner keeps eyes on prize
  - Runner presses hard till race is over
  - Mt.14, Peter

## 2. Press for the prize, 3:12-14

12: press on to lay hold

13: focus on without distraction

14: press toward the goal for the prize

## 2. Press for the prize – How?

### 1. Gratitude, 1:3-5

- Based on joy / pardon, 4:4



## 2. Press for the prize – How?

### 2. Brotherly love, 1:7-9. 4:1, 5

- Yielding, gentle, kind, mild, courteous, tolerant (with people, not sin)
- Is it in us?
  - Visitors?
  - Drivers?
  - Home?
  - Work?

## 2. Press for the prize – How?

### 3. Free of bitterness, 1:15-18

- Ruth 1:20
- How to react to criticism?
  1. Listen with open mind
  2. Examine self – is it true???
  3. If untrue . . . forget it
  4. If true . . . be grateful, repent. 4:2-3

## 2. Press for the prize – How?

### 4. Magnify Christ, 1:20

- Cause to be held in greater esteem
- Timing of statement: not Acts 9 on road or in city ...
  - After stripes, prison, shipwrecks

## 2. Press for the prize – How?

### 5. Service and sacrifice, 1:23-24

- Better for Paul to leave...forever
- Better for Philippians for Paul to stay
- Impact on others, 2:25-30

## 2. Press for the prize – How?

### 6. Avoid deception, 3:2-3

- Beware! Don't be deceived as Saul was
- Judaizers, not Gentiles, are dogs
- Gentiles, not Jews, are the circumcision

## 2. Press for the prize – How?

### 7. Avoid distractions, 3:13

- This one thing I do
  - Past failures.
  - Past successes. 13 (4-7)
  - Present success. Leads to satisfaction

## 2. Press for the prize – How?

### 8. Avoid impurity, 3:17-19

- Judaizers made laws (3:1-11)
- Libertines disregarded laws (3:17-19)

## 2. Press for the prize – How?

### 9. Avoid compromise, 4:9 – do!

- Conviction costs
  - One another, Hb.10:24 – stir up
  - Family time
  - Lost souls
  - Young people

Marriage

Popularity

Money

Friends

Recreation

Employment