

Striving for Excellence

A Distinctive Life – Part 9

Not that I have already...arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:12-14 NIV

1. Forget past mistakes

One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind.... Phil. 3:13 NIV

Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 1 Tim. 1:13, 15-16 NIV

2. Accept present imperfections

Not that I have already...arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Phil. 3:12 NIV

3. Pursue future objectives

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:14 NIV

Three goals for every believer:

■ To grow personally

Let us live up to what we have already attained. Phil. 3:16 NIV

■ To influence others for Christ

Join with others in following my example...and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. Phil. 3:17 NIV

■ To gain an eternal reward

Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Phil. 3:20-21 NIV