

Sermon Series: Rejoice! (A Study of Philippians)

Sermon: Eyes on the Prize

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-16

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.

Reflection Questions:

- What past achievements, sins, or events do you need to “forget” (vs 13)?
- In what ways do we try to earn our way instead of trusting that Christ has made us His own? In what ways do we use the grace and love of Jesus to avoid “straining forward to what lies ahead”?
- What would it look like for you to "strain forward" toward Christ this week? What might that cost you?
- Is there someone in your church community whose thinking differs from yours, where you need to trust God to reveal truth to them (or you) rather than trying to force agreement?
- When you imagine standing before Christ at the end of the race, what do you hope He'll say about how you ran—and does that vision change how you're living today?

Guided Prayer:

Thank God for making you His own. Help Him to see Christ as your ultimate prize. Repent of the ways that you have prized other things more highly than Christ. Ask God to reveal to you things you need to forget and leave behind. Ask God to reveal to you ways you can strain forward toward Him. Ask Him to develop you into a mature person who thinks the way Paul describes. Ask Him to help you to hold on to what He has given you in Christ. Thank Him that it does not depend on your earning, but on His grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.