

## Pursuing the Prize

Philippians 3:12-17

Christmas is about Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, becoming a man on earth to purchase and impart righteousness to anyone who is willing to believe. Paul's eyes had been opened to the truth that righteousness was never achieved, but only received. He was no longer working to obtain his own righteousness but having a righteousness that is through faith in Christ. A true believer has Christ's righteousness. But what is next? The true believer's pursuit is to work out the righteousness that has been given to him. We have righteousness in Christ alone, and now we work out that righteousness in Christlikeness. Paul lays out what pursuing the prize looks like.

- I. There is more – V.12a and 13a
  
- II. Requires effort – V.12b; 13c; 13d; 14
  
- III. Demands focus – V. 13 “one thing I do”
  
- IV. Keep your eyes on the goal – V. 14 an upward call
  
- V. Right attitude - V. 15 “think”
  
- VI. Never give up - V. 16 “same mind”

Why should any believer be concerned about pursuing Christlikeness?

1. Shows worth and value for God's name
2. Everything born desires to grow - it is natural
3. Blesses others and equips us for more effective ministry
4. Opportunity to walk in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit
5. Magnifies God's Truth and Word
6. Prepares us for the judgment of believers – II Cor. 5:10. A judgment of life not condemnation!