

## Believers Together

Discovering the Word Series – September 12th, 2023, 1 PM

### Pressing on Toward the Goal—Philippians 3:12–4:1

#### Open It

1. If you lived in ancient times and participated in sports, would you prefer chariot racing or spear throwing? Why?
2. How much time do you spend watching or participating in sports?

#### Philippians 3:12–4:1 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup>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.

<sup>13</sup>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,

<sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

<sup>16</sup>Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

<sup>17</sup>Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

<sup>18</sup>For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

<sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

<sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>21</sup>who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

#### Explore It

3. In what ways did Paul's spiritual life resemble the discipline of a runner? (3:12–14)
4. How did Paul call the Philippians to share his view? (3:15)
5. What did Paul hope for the believers who disagreed with him? (3:15)
6. What was Paul's plea to the Philippians? (3:16)
7. \*How did Paul want believers to imitate him? (3:17)
8. How did Paul describe God's enemies? (3:18–19)
9. Where did the Philippian Christians have their citizenship? (3:20)
10. Whom did the Philippian believers eagerly await? (3:20)
11. What characterizes citizens of heaven? (3:21)

**Get It**

12. What kind of race are you running for Christ?
13. What kind of opposition do you face in your struggle to live as a Christian?
14. How can Christ help you stay on track and reach the goal?

**Apply It**

15. In what way can you renew your commitment to press on toward the goal of being like Christ?