



**PURSUIT OF  
THE PRIZE**  
Philippians 3:12-14

*Setting the Context*

In 3:1-6 Paul warns against having confidence in external religious credentials.

In 3:7-11 he expresses the surpassing value of giving up everything in your possession to know Christ.

“I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.” Phil. 3:9

“After interviewing over 3,000 teenagers the social scientists summed up their beliefs:

- 1) A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
- 2) God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- 3) The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- 4) God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
- 5) Good people go to heaven when they die.





The Christian's confidence comes not by being good enough—but by having “the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

Know: *ginosko* “to know, to recognize, to know personally through experience, to appropriate. The word often implies a personal relation between the knower and the known, involving the influence of the object of knowledge upon the knower. (Vincent; also TDNT)

Paul culminates his description of this deep knowing relationship involving such a complete identification with Jesus by identifying it as conforming to the death and experiencing the power of resurrection.

### “Power of His Resurrection”

Romans 6:4-6 “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.”

### “Fellowship of His sufferings”

Galatians 2:20 “Crucified with Christ”  
2 Corinthians 4:10 “Always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body,”

However, we all struggle in this pursuit to become Like Jesus

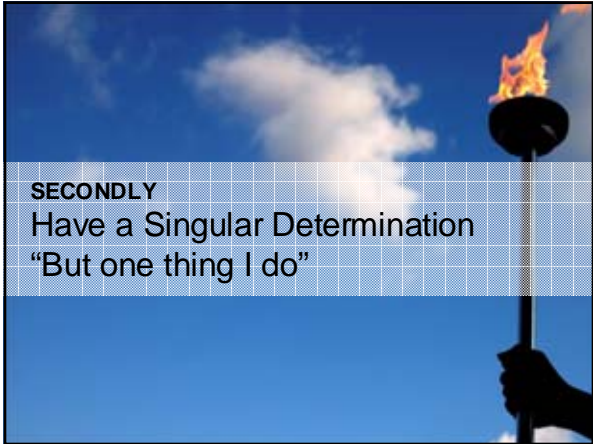
Paul gives us 3 insights to help us set our course to reach the goal of Christ likeness.

**FIRST**  
Have a Humble Dissatisfaction with our Spiritual Life

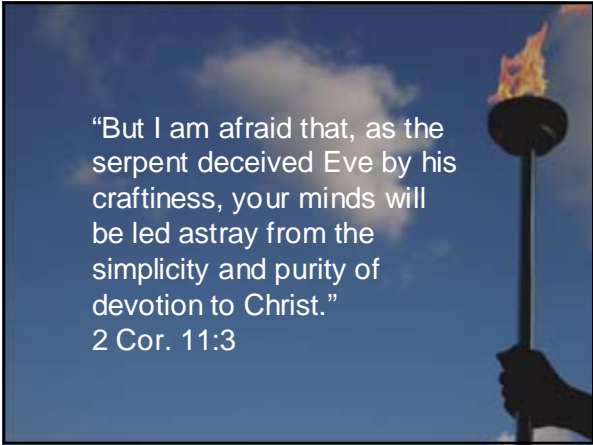
“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on...”

Paul uses the analogy of an Olympic runner—stretching out to reach the finish line.

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. 1 Cor. 9:24-27




**SECONDLY**  
Have a Singular Determination  
“But one thing I do”



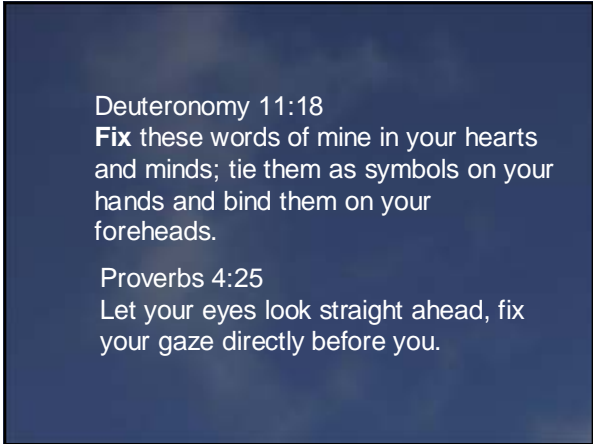
“But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”  
2 Cor. 11:3



**THIRDLY**  
Remove any Distractions



“Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead”



Deuteronomy 11:18  
**Fix** these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

Proverbs 4:25  
Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.

2 Corinthians 4:18

So we **fix** our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Hebrews 3:1

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, **fix** your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

Hebrews 12:2

Let us **fix** our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*Conclusion:*

Have a Humble Dissatisfaction with our Spiritual Life

Have a Singular Determination towards greater devotion to Christ

Remove any Distractions that would keep you from the prize

