



## RUNNING TOWARD CHRIST

*Philippians 3:10-21*

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Pastor Trevor Cooper

Good morning Church! God's will for the church of Philippi is the same for any church and all followers of Christ: to be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did. The gospel is what Jesus has done for us and continues to do for us to sanctify, mature and grow us to the point of completion. Faith as the instrument does not provide value of its own but linked with Christ and His work — it brings Salvation. In this section of his letter, Paul uses an analogy of a runner in a race to describe the Christian's spiritual growth.

### **Philippians 3:10-21**

*“that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. **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. **17** Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. **18** For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. **19** Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. **20** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** 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.”*

- Every Christian is to be **ACTIVELY INVOLVED** not **PASSIVELY PARTICIPATING**.

### **1. The PRIZE of Every Believer is the FULLNESS of God's SALVATION. (v 12-14)**

*“ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:8-9***

- The goal is **CHRISTLIKENESS**. (v 14)

## 2. The THOUGHTS of Every Believer are MOTIVATED By GOD. (v 15-16)

*“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— **3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” **1 Peter 2:2-3***

## 3. The MODEL of Every Believer Should REFLECT the Example of CHRIST. (v 17-21)

- Be FAITHFUL to the CROSS .
- Believing in Jesus WITHOUT modeling your life after Jesus is a FALSE FAITH.
- Have CHRIST as his GLORY.
- Set Your MIND on HEAVENLY things.

*“As you wait upon the LORD, do what waiters do — SERVE!”*

### Salvation through Jesus Christ

*The single most important decision a person could ever make in their lifetime is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory" and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death". Yet through God's love, only "Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith"... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead YOU WILL BE SAVED. **The Bible says to REPENT of your sins. BELIEVE in Jesus receiving His forgiveness.** Then, identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being BAPTIZED.*