**PAUL’S PRESENT LIFE**

**PART II**

**Philippians 3:12-16**

**MAIN THOUGHT** These are the essentials for winning the race and receiving a prize: DISSATISFACTION (12-13a); DEVOTION (13b), DIRECTION (13c), DETERMINATION (14); DISCIPLINE (15-16).

**DISSATISFACTION** (12-13a).

- Paul was completely satisfied with Christ, but not with himself (2 Cor. 13:11).

> “A sanctified dissatisfaction is essential to progress in Christ.” Weirsbe

- Self evaluation can be good but has two dangers: (1) making yourselves BETTER (Samson – Jud. 16:20; Sardis – Rev. 3:1; Laodicea – Rev. 3:17) or WORSE (Smyrna – Rev. 2:8) than we really are. This is reputation without reality.
- You must PRESS ON (Psa. 42:1-2) in your race motivated by LOVE for Christ.
- There is no instant, sudden, absolute perfection in a single experience.

**DIRECTION** (13b).

- Paul’s focus (one thing) was to forget the past (Luke 9:62). You will never win the race by running on your past accomplishments or failures.
- Break the power of your past by living for the future. Get the things of your past SETTLED like Joseph (Gen. 50:20-21) and Paul (1 Tim. 1:12-17).
- *Straining ahead* means to lean forward into the future and RUN (Heb. 12:1).

**DETERMINATION** (14).

- *I press on* – intense endeavor keeping your eye on the goal (Rom. 12:2).
- The prize to work for is not heaven – it is assured (John 10:28) and not by works but grace (Eph. 2:8-9).
- The prize (1 Cor. 9:24-27) are your Christian rewards which are by works and are not assured (Luke 19:26; suffer loss – 1 Cor. 3:14-15).
- He does work in you (1:6), for you can do nothing without Him (John 15:5).

**DISCIPLINE** (15-16).

- You who are spiritually mature (Heb. 5:13-14) should not become complacent for there are new heights to be scaled.
- For those who think they have already attained perfection . . . the Holy Spirit will convict you of your sin (John 16:13).
- You must live up to what you have already attained in your Christian life for you will be held accountable (Matt. 12:48).