

## What Paul Knew About Himself

Philippians 3:12-16

### Dissatisfaction

- *Verses 12-13a* – “not that I have already attained (or made perfect)”
  - We are soldiers. II Timothy 2:3
  - Farmers. II Timothy 2:6
    - Job not done. cf. Revelation 3:1,17; I Corinthians 10:12
- Paul not finished. Verses 12-13a

### Devotion...

- *Verse 13a* – “*But One Thing I Do*”
  - We are athletes. Focus is necessary I Corinthians 9:24
  - Nehemiah doing a “*great work*” Nehemiah 6:3
  - Paul was focused. Philippians 2:21; cf. Galatians 2:20

### Direction

- *Verse 13b* – “*Stretching forward to the things that are before.*”
  - Can’t be controlled by the past. cf. I Timothy 12-16
  - Winners do not look back ... Victories or defeats.
  - Reaching forward ... cf. Hebrews 12:1-2
  - Paul placed his sinful past in the hands of his forgiving God ... cf. Hebrews 10:17; Acts 21:8

### Determination

- *Verse 14* – “*I press on toward the goal...*”
  - A runner is in a race not out for a walk.
  - The devil is to be fought. I Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:11-12
  - Heaven is a place of rest. Revelation 14:13
  - Called upward by the gospel ... II Thessalonians 2:14

### Discipline

- *Verses 15-16* – “*Let us walk by the same rule.*”
  - Discipline is necessary. I Corinthians 9:25-27
- We must learn to gird up the loins of our minds, study to show ourselves approved, crucify the flesh with its passions and desires, fight the good fight of faith, as well as pray without ceasing if we plan on wearing an imperishable crown at the end of the race. (cf. II Timothy 2:5)

### Conclusion:

- The “*crown of life*” awaits those of us who follow the faithful example of Paul.
- With him, “*Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of (our) faith.*” Hebrews 12:1-2