Sunday Sermon Notes				

THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?



Pursuing and Pressing for the Prize

Philippians 3:11-14

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul's relationship with Christ was the gain worth counting all things but loss in order to attain. When he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he made that choice and gained Jesus, however he had yet to apprehend this complete package. It was fully secure, but as of yet unrealized. Paul reassures his readers that the goal of his perfection in Christ was his constant pursuit. He ran this race of life with his eyes on the prize set before him. The efforts and achievements of the past were forgotten and the prize of God's high calling in Christ was all consuming.

Part 1 – Not Yet Attained

Read Philippians 3:8-13; 2 Corinthians 7:1

1) What do you think Paul had not attained yet?

2) According to 2 Corinthians 7 why can neither Paul nor we claim to be perfect?

3) How do you think Christians should respond/ react to the reality of our current imperfection?

Part 2—Constant Pursuit

Read Philippians 3:12-13; 1 Peter 3:11-13

1) What do you think Paul was following after and reaching for?

2) According to 1 Peter how can we expect God to react to our pursuits and followings?

3) What are some indicators of our pursuits?

Part 3—Forgetting What is Behind

Read Philippians 3:13; Hebrews 12:1-2

1) What do you think Paul means by "forgetting those things which are behind"?

2) What does the writer of Hebrews indicate we must "lay aside" and how does that parallel Paul's instructions to forget?

3) How and why do you think Christians struggle to forget what they should?

Part 4—Pressing Toward the Mark

Read Philippians 3:13-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

1) What does Paul indicate is the prize for which the Christian presses?

2) According to 1 Corinthians 9 how does the prize/crown affect the way we run the race?

3) How is your life today affected by the prize to which you have been called by God?

Don't forget the Big Idea!