Philippians 3:10 (HCS) <sup>10</sup> My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death... Philippians 3:12 (HCS)
<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already reached [the goal] or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14 (HCS) <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

### NEVER Dwell on the PAST

Philippians 3:12-21

Paul was a spiritual giant in the eyes of the Philippian believers, so he wanted them to know that he had not yet attained the GOALS stated in vs 10. He was still actively pressing on towards them.

#### ONE THING I DO: Forgetting what is behind Straining toward what is ahead

Acts 8:3 (NIV) But Saul **began to DESTROY the church**. Going from house to house, he **dragged off men and women** and put them in prison. Acts 9:1-2 (NIV) ...Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. <u>He went to the high priest</u><sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus...

1 Timothy 1:13-14 (NIV) Even though I was once a blasphemer and a **persecutor** and a **violent man**, was shown MERCY because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.<sup>14</sup> The GRACE of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

# Do not let the PAST get in the way of KNOWING and GROWING in Jesus

ONE Thing I DO FORGET the Past
Push towards the GOAL
Press on to Win the PRIZE

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> Let us <u>fix our eyes on Jesus</u>, 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.

#### →As we Run Remember we have a Cheering Section

<sup>1</sup>...Since <u>WE are surrounded</u> by such a great cloud of witnesses

#### →Before we Run THROW OFF Everything that Gets in the WAY

<sup>1</sup> ... since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us <u>throw off everything that hinders</u> and the sin that so easily entangles

#### Run with PERSEVERANCE

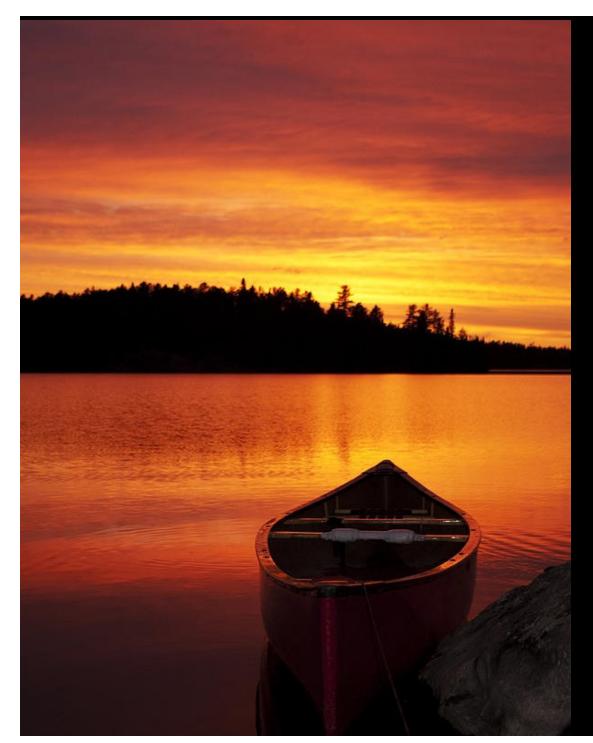
<sup>1</sup>...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us <u>run with perseverance</u>

#### →Run the COURSE set Before YOU

<sup>1</sup>...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance <u>the race marked out for us</u>.

#### →As we Run our Race we must FOCUS on JESUS

<sup>2</sup> Let us <u>fix our eyes on Jesus</u>, 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.



#### Godliness is a JOURNEY - not a DESTINATION

## Christians should NEVER be satisfied with yesterday's GRACE.

**DA** Carson

James 4:17 (HCS) So it IS a SIN for the person who knows to DO what is GOOD and doesn't DO it. James 4:17 (NLT) Remember, it IS SIN to KNOW what you OUGHT to DO and then NOT DO it.

# It is more than just NOT Doing Wrong it is also purposely DOING what is RIGHT

#### 1 Corinthians 11:1 (HCS) Imitate me, AS | also imitate Christ.

Paul had received God's Mercy that he might become a PATTERN for others. His life after his conversion was dedicated to SHOWING others HOW a Christian should live.

MacDonald

For them, the important things in life were food, clothing, honor, comfort, and pleasure. Eternal issues and heavenly things did not disturb their **groveling** in the **muck** of this world. They carried on as if they were going to live on earth forever. вкс

ENEMIES of the CROSS	CITIZENS of Heaven
<b>DESTINY</b> is Destruction	We <b>BELONG</b> to Jesus
APPETITES are their god	We Wait Eagerly for His COMING
<b>PROUD</b> of Shameful Lifestyle	We <b>LONG</b> to be Transformed
FOCUSED on Here and Now	He WILL Reign in <b>POWER</b>

Colossians 1:21-22 (NLT) ...you who were once FAR AWAY from God. You were **His ENEMIES**, **SEPARATED** from **Him** by your evil thoughts and actions. 22 **YET NOW** <u>He has reconciled you</u> to Himself through the death of Christ... Titus 3:3-7 (NLT) <sup>3</sup> Once WE, TOO, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other.  <sup>4</sup> BUT When God our Savior revealed His kindness and love,
 <sup>5</sup> He SAVED us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His MERCY... <sup>5</sup> ...He washed away our sins,
giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.
<sup>6</sup> He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. <sup>7</sup> Because of His grace He DECLARED us RIGHTEOUS and gave us CONFIDENCE that we will inherit eternal life.