

Sermon: The Christian's Race or "Run, Christian, Run!"
Scripture: Philippians 3:12-16

Introduction:

- A. A sports analogy
 - B. Verse 11 from last week
 - C. Verses 15 and 16 as a footnote
 - D. The big picture:
 - 1. A Christian is a person who puts all his confidence in Christ and Christ alone for his being forgiven and being reconciled to God (vs. 8-9).
 - 2. A Christian has a changed heart and loves Christ and desires to follow Him, serve Him, and live for Him (vs. 10).
- I. The race—pressing on toward perfection (vs. 12,13a): The Christian is racing toward likeness to Christ, righteousness of character, and holiness of life.
- A. This is the Christian's responsibility (I Tim. 6:12; Eph. 6:10-13; Heb. 12:1-3).
 - B. This is God's design (Titus 2:4; II Cor. 5:14,15).
 - C. Some applications:
 - 1. The obvious: Christians affirm that this is their responsibility, and this is God's design for them.
 - 2. Even the best Christian still falls short in this life and has much room for growth (Romans 7).
 - 3. Because perfection is unattainable is no reason not to pursue it and have such as a goal.
 - 4. The means we use to advance in this race toward perfection.
- II. Running wisely (vs. 13b)
- A. Run not looking back. Why say, "Forgetting what lies behind"?
 - 1. Because some professing Christians don't run but instead dwell on how far they have come.
 - 2. Because some Christians become discouraged over the past, and it hinders them from running in the present.
 - B. Run looking forward.
- III. Running to win (vs. 14).