

Joy in Christ
Reaching the Goal
Philippians 3:7-14

1. Everything means nothing compared to our relationship with Christ.

Philippians 3 ⁸ But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him.

Luke 14 ³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

2. Our path as believers should be to mature into Christlikeness.

John 10 ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Philippians 3 ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

3. Reaching the goal means fulfilling our calling in Christ Jesus.

Acts 9 “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

Philippians 3 ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Philippians 3 ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5 ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.