

PHILIPPIANS...PART XIX

"Pursuing perfection continued again"

Reference: **Philippians 3:12-16**

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Even though "*perfection*" in this life is not possible, it is still a legitimate goal to strive toward. Paul describes four strategic steps that are needed to pursue perfection

ONE is EVALUATE

TWO is ELIMINATE

THREE is _____...

verse thirteen, "...but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead."

verse fourteen, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Paul's ultimate goal was to receive the prize that is perfection and that perfection meant to completely resemble Jesus Christ.

Reference: **I John 3:2**, "*Beloved, now we are children of God: and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He (Jesus) is revealed, we shall be like Him (Jesus), for we shall see Him as He is.*"

FOUR is _____.

Consider three principles about "*finishing*":

One...that _____ can "not" finish

Reference: **Acts 13:43**, "*Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.*"

Reference: **Acts 14:21** and **22**

verse twenty-one, "*And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,*

verse twenty-two, "*strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.'*"

Reference: **II Timothy 3:13** and **14a**

verse thirteen, "*But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

verse fourteen, "*But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of...*"

Reference: **II Timothy 4:6** and **7**

verse six, "*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

verse seven, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*"

Paul summed up his Christian experience in three statements.

- he was a _____
- he was a _____
- he was a _____

Two...that we should determine to finish and "_____"

- some were "_____"
- some "_____"
- some "_____ - _____"
- some "_____"

Read **Acts 20:24**

verse twenty-four, "*But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and (that I may finish) the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*"

Three...that it doesn't matter how we start, but what matters is _____ we finish

Reference: **Hebrews 12:1**, "...lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.**"