

OBTAINING THE PRIZE



--Philippians 3:13-14

Obtaining the Prize

- **Our goal is to win, but we can only win if we are on Jesus' side.**
- **How do you do that?**

Hear

Romans 10:13-17

Believe

John 20:31, Hebrews 11:6

Repent

Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30

Confess

Romans 10:10, Matthew 10:32

Baptism

Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38

BE FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH!

Obtaining the Prize

Scripture text: --Philippians 3:13-14 nkjv

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Obtaining the Prize

Aim Of This Lesson—

To show Christians that they will not obtain the prize if they do not finish the race; if they do not endure; if they give up or harden their hearts and deviate from the path.

Obtaining the Prize

- ***The Christian's walk...his/her life is compared to a race or an athletic contest several times in the Bible.***

II Timothy 4:7-8 *nkjv*

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

I Corinthians 9:24 *nkjv*

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*.

Hebrews 12:1 *nkjv*

¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us 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,

Obtaining the Prize

- **The Scripture refers to the Christian's life as a "race" on several occasions.**
- **If you DO NOT finish...if you DO NOT at least cross the finish line...you DO NOT get anything. It is the same with every marathon, sprint, or race.**

Obtaining the Prize

- **In Philippians 3, Paul teaches us how to *"finish the course"* so that we can *"obtain the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus."* His directions are as follows:**
 - 1) Forget the past.**
 - 2) Reach forward.**
 - 3) Keep pressing on.**

Obtaining the Prize

1. Forgetting the past.

Philippians 3:13 *nkjv*

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do, forgetting those things which are behind* and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

**Forget means to
“eliminate from the mind”.**

Obtaining the Prize

1. Forgetting the past.

- Apostle Paul had done some terrible things in the past, but the blood of Christ had washed away his sins...they were gone...and Paul left them behind.
 - One of the most significant obstacles to people's ability to "obtain the prize" is their inability to forget their past!

Obtaining the Prize

1. Forgetting the past.

- Example of Moses & Israelites.
 - They were on their way to the promise land, but every time danger or problem came up, what did they say?
 - "We wish we would have stayed in Egypt."

Obtaining the Prize

1. Forgetting the past.

- This happens to a lot of people who start the Christian race.

Colossians 3:1-2 *nkjv*

¹If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Colossians 3:5-6 *nkjv*

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

Luke 9:62 *nkjv*

⁶² Jesus replied, “*No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.*”

Obtaining the Prize

2. Reaching forward.

Philippians 3:13 *nkjv*

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

- Some translations say, “stretching forward or straining forward.

Obtaining the Prize

2. Reaching forward.

Hebrews 10:32-36 *nkjv*

³² But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³ partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴ for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. ³⁵ Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

- **We have the reward and have received a promise if we keep reaching forward.**

Obtaining the Prize

2. Reaching forward.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *nkjv*

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

- **We must put God in the forefront of our minds always.**

Obtaining the Prize

3. Keep pressing on.

Philippians 3:14 *nkjv*

¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- To press on means "constant, diligent, unending pursuit... regardless of the obstacles and hindrances."

Obtaining the Prize

3. Keep pressing on.

II Corinthians 11:24-28 *niv*

²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸ Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

Obtaining the Prize

3. Keep pressing on.

Colossians 4:2-6 *nkjv*

² Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ³ meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, ⁴ that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. ⁶ *Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

- **Press on with God's help through prayer...with an attitude of thanksgiving...using wisdom letting our speech be filled with grace... seasoned with salt.**

Obtaining the Prize

- **In order to “obtain the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus we need to:**
 - 1) Forget what lies behind.**
 - 2) Reach forward to what lies ahead.**
 - 3) Press on.**

The Plan of Salvation

Hear

Romans 10:13-17

Believe

John 20:31, Hebrews 11:6

Repent

Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30

Confess

Romans 10:10, Matthew 10:32

Baptism

Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38



How to Make a Request for Prayer **or Baptism**

PrayerRequests@whelesscoc.org



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