

Pressing on Toward the Goal - Philippians 3:12-4:1

Topics

Believers, Citizenship, Enemies, Example, Goals, God, Heaven, Jesus Christ, Maturity, Power, Shame

Open It Questions

A. How physically fit are you?

B. If you lived in ancient times and participated in sports, would you prefer chariot racing or spear throwing? Why?

C. How much time do you spend watching or participating in sports?

Explore It Questions and Discussion

1. What was Paul's testimony? (3:12-14)

2. In what ways did Paul's spiritual life resemble the discipline of a runner? (3:12-14)

3. What was Paul's view of the past? (3:13)

4. What was Paul's goal? (3:14)

5. How did Paul call the Philippians to share his view? (3:15)

6. What did Paul hope for the believers who disagreed with him? (3:15)

7. What was Paul's plea to the Philippians? (3:16)

8. How did Paul want believers to imitate him? (3:17)

9. How did Paul describe God's enemies? (3:18-19)

10. Where did the Philippian Christians have their citizenship? (3:20)

11. Whom did the Philippian believers eagerly await? (3:20)

12. What characterizes citizens of heaven? (3:20-21)

13. Because of the great and wonderful promises outlined by Paul in verse 3:21, what were the Philippian Christians to do? (4:1)

Get It Questions

14. What kind of race are you running for Christ?

15. What prize do you seek?

16. What kind of opposition do you face in your struggle to live as a Christian?

17. How can you imitate Paul's life and example?

18. How can Christ help you stay on track and reach the goal?

Apply It Questions

19. What spiritual workout or training this week will help you run your Christian marathon?

20. In what way can you renew your commitment to press on toward the goal of being like Christ?

Adult Questions for LESSONMaker.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Southfield, Michigan

BIBLE STUDY

Facilitators:

Rev. Rodney Kemp

Rev. Valerie Crump

Rev. Jacqueline Albert

Minister-in-Training, Alicia Martin

Philippians 3:12-4:1s
“Pressing on Toward the
Goal”





Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

TOPICS



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

TOPICS

- Believers
- Citizenship
- Enemies
- Example
- Goals
- God
- Heaven
- Jesus Christ
- Maturity
- Power
- Shame



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

OPEN IT QUESTIONS



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

OPEN IT QUESTIONS

A. How physically fit are you?



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

OPEN IT QUESTIONS

B. If you lived in ancient times and participated in sports, would you prefer chariot racing or spear throwing? Why?



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

**OPEN IT
QUESTIONS**

C. How much time do you spend watching or participating in sports?



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

INTRODUCTION



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Paul’s goal was to know Christ, to be like Christ, and to be all Christ had in mind for him. This goal absorbed all his energy. This provides a helpful example. We should not let anything take our eyes off our goal—knowing Christ. With the single-mindedness of an athlete in training, we must lay aside everything harmful and forsake anything that may distract us from being effective Christians. What is holding you back?



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

SCRIPTURE



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

S
C
R
I
P
T
U
R
E

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.

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.



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

S
C
R
I
P
T
U
R
E

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

S C R I P T U R E

¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

**EXPLORE IT QUESTIONS
AND DISCUSSION**



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

1. What was Paul’s testimony? (3:12-14)

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.

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.



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

2. In what ways did Paul’s spiritual life resemble the discipline of a runner? (3:12-14)

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.

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.



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

3. What was Paul’s view of the past? (3:13)

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,



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

4. What was Paul’s goal? (3:14)

¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

5. How did Paul call the Philippians to share his view? (3:15)

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

6. What did Paul hope for the believers who disagreed with him? (3:15)

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

**7. What was Paul’s plea to the Philippians?
(3:16)**

¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

8. How did Paul want believers to imitate him? (3:17)

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

9. How did Paul describe God’s enemies? (3:18-19)

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

10. Where did the Philippian Christians have their citizenship? ([3:20](#))

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

11. Whom did the Philippian believers eagerly await? ([3:20](#))

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

12. What characterizes citizens of heaven? (3:20-21)

*²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

13. Because of the great and wonderful promises outlined by Paul in verse 3:21, what were the Philippian Christians to do? (4:1)

4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

GET IT QUESTIONS

#14 - #18

(See Participant Handout)



Philippians 3:12-4:1

“Pressing on Toward the Goal”

APPLY IT QUESTIONS

#19-#20

(See Participant Handout)