

What Matters Most

Maturity Philippians 3:12-16

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Paul's Priorities (3:9-11)

- A. Righteousness through faith in Christ (9)
- B. A Growing Personal Relationship in Christ (10a)
- C. Partnership of Suffering in Christ (10b)
- D. Eternal Life in Christ (11)

Spiritual Maturity (3:12-16)

1. Paul's Pursuit - Work in Progress (12)
2. Paul's Playbook - Getting Inside His Head (13f)
 - A. Forgetting the Past (13a)
 - B. Moving Forward (13b)
 - C. Seizing the Prize - calling of God in Christ Jesus (14)
3. Paul's Three Challenges for Believers (15)
 - A. Mature Believers - think (15a)
 - B. Maturing Believers - discern (15b)
 - C. Hold true to what you have attained (16)

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul describes himself as a "work in progress" in verse 12. Where do you find God working on you right now? (For example, anger, patience, etc.)
2. After reviewing Paul's playbook (13-14) what do you think is your biggest weakness on the list? What are some steps you can take to strengthen in this area? Write them down and pray over those areas this week.
3. Paul addresses spiritual maturity in verse 15, and differentiates between mature believers and people who are growing into maturity as believers. This call to maturity is also found in Hebrews 6:1 - ". . . let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, . . ." Do you think you are maturing in your relationship with God? Why or why not? Please Discuss.