



Daily Verse and Comment

[Philippians 3:12-14](#)

(12) Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. (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.

New King James Version

The word picture in [Philippians 3:12-14](#) is of men straining to win a foot race. The Christian life is especially like the longer races where the runner must sustain a winning frame of mind over a longer period of time. We cannot run our race like the hare of the "Tortoise and the Hare" fable, in which the hare took a nap during the race.

Paul illustrates that after having received God's grace, our responsibility is to return full effort to [God](#) in striving to perfection in moral, ethical, and spiritual areas. He did not see the struggle against [sin](#), fear, and doubt as being accomplished by God alone. The apostle is here urging his erring brothers to follow his example in persistently concentrating on our common goal.

Life for us now consists of discarding wrong attitudes and habits accumulated in the past. In modern, psychological terms, we must lose our baggage. For us, the past is dead, buried in the waters of [baptism](#). With that behind us, we must diligently make unwavering progress in putting out the leaven of sin, growing in [God's love](#), producing the fruit of God's Spirit, moving toward the [Kingdom of God](#), and putting on Christ's perfection, His image in us.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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