

# ATTITUDES IN PURSUING CHRISTLIKENESS

Philippians 3:12-16

FAITH BUILDERS



# PAUL'S ATTITUDES IN PURSUING CHRISTLIKENESS

1. Paul understood that he wasn't spiritually perfect - yet (3:12a)
2. Paul actively and aggressively pursued Christlikeness (v12b)
  - He knew that he was saved to be conformed to the image of Christ

**Romans 8:29** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become **conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

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2. Paul actively and aggressively pursued Christlikeness (v12b)
  - He knew that he was saved to be conformed to the image of Christ
  - He pursued in this life to increasingly become what Christ saved him to be
3. Paul *really* got the fact that he had spiritual progress to make (v13a)
4. Paul pursued the goal of Christlikeness in this life knowing that the ultimate prize of complete Christlikeness awaited him in glory (v14)

**2 Timothy 4:7–8** <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have **finished the course**, I have kept the faith; <sup>8</sup>**in the future** there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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4. Paul pursued the goal of Christlikeness in this life knowing that the ultimate prize of complete Christlikeness awaited him in glory (v14)
  - By focusing on this as the single, over-arching pursuit of his life (v13b)
  - By forgetting what lies behind – the good, bad, and ugly (v13c)
  - By reaching forward with all his might to what lies ahead (v13d)

# PAUL'S FINAL INSTRUCTIONS IN PURSUING CHRISTLIKENESS

- Spiritually mature believers should have this same attitude as Paul (v15a)
- Paul is confident that those who think differently will eventually be instructed by the Lord (v15b)
- Regardless of which group you are in, keep progressing in your spiritual maturity (v16)

# OUR REQUIRED ATTITUDES IN PURSUING CHRISTLIKENESS

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2. You are to actively and aggressively pursue Christlikeness (v12b)
  - You have been saved to be conformed to the image of Christ

**Romans 8:29a** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become **conformed to the image of His Son**

**2 Thessalonians 2:14** <sup>14</sup>To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may **obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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  - You must pursue in this life to increasingly become what Christ saved you to be

(ESV) Phil 3:12 <sup>12</sup>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.



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  - By reaching forward with all your might to what lies ahead for you (v13d)

# CLOSING THOUGHTS

- Your life will diligently pursue what you love

**Matthew 6:21** <sup>21</sup>for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

# CLOSING THOUGHTS

- Your life will diligently pursue what you love
  - Therefore grow your love of Christ!
- We each run our race not as a competition with other believers, but in love and obedience toward Christ and for His glory
- The Word of God gives us the mind of Christ and defines Christlikeness
- Growing in Christlikeness produces a decreasing pattern of sin and increasing pattern of righteousness
- Like Paul, let each of us labor until Christ is formed in us!

**Galatians 4:19** <sup>19</sup>My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you—