

CROSSWORDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Press On

Pursuing the Prize of the Christian Life

Philippians 3:12–21

JUNE 7, 2026

Book Theme

Joyful Christian Living

Book Key Verse

Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”



REVIEW

I. Partakers with Christ – Chapter 1

II. People of Christ – Chapter 2

III. Pursuit of Christ – Chapter 3

IV. Power of Christ – Chapter 4

Lesson Key Verse

Philippians 3:14

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Lesson Theme

The Christian that has properly understood God’s work in their life will wholeheartedly pursue the day of Christ Jesus and the righteousness God promises to those who love Him through God’s means of sanctification.

01

The Reality of the Pursuit (12a)

“not that I have already attained it”

01 The Reality of the Pursuit (12a)

A fact of the Christian life is that the more you mature the more you realize how much further you have to go to become like Christ.

Max Anders

02

The Effort of the Pursuit (12b)

“I press on”

03

The Concentration of the Pursuit (13)

*“forgetting what lies behind,
reaching forward to what lies ahead”*

03 The Concentration of the Pursuit (13)

Forgetting means “ceasing to let the things which are in the past, both good and bad, be past, constantly looking forward to the work God had for him to do.”

James Montgomery Boice

04

The Goal of the Pursuit (14)

“toward the goal for the upward call”

04 The Goal of the Pursuit (14)

The man at the top had shown the power of a purpose, the need for a goal, how everyone working together would mean victory.

Maxie Dunnam

05

The Mindset of the Pursuit (15)

“have this attitude”

06

The Course of the Pursuit (16)

“keep living by that same standard”

07

The Example of the Pursuit (17)

“follow my example”

07 The Example of the Pursuit (17)

Such as the life and walk of Paul and his fellow workers. Something of Christ in the work of his Grace, and of the power of his resurrection and of the fellowship with his sufferings can be seen in them. Therefore, their example can call for imitation by other believers.

Jac Muller

08

The Warning for the Pursuit (18-19)

“for many walk...”

09

The Consummation of the Pursuit (20-21)

“our citizenship is in heaven”

Questions to Consider:

1. Is there anything in your life for which you expend more effort or energy, or to which you provide more enthusiasm than knowing and being like Jesus Christ?
2. Do you spend your Christian life living a life of regret about what's happened in the past?
3. Do you spend your life focusing on the prize? Do you ever think about the prize?
4. Do you truly have the kind of attitude that Paul has?
5. Whose example in this life do you follow? Are you following the example of Paul or a different example?
6. Do you live a life that others should follow?
7. Do you believe that “to live is Christ, and to die is gain”?