



Sermon Series: Back to Basics
Sermon Title: Committed for the Long-Haul
Scripture: Philippians 3:12-16
Pastor Chris Fritz
Sunday, June 25, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Note: Perseverance is essential to the Christian life, and MUCH will depend on your frame of mind!

“But as for you, O man of God, FLEE these things. PURSUE righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. FIGHT the good fight of the faith. TAKE HOLD of the eternal life to which you were called...” (1 Timothy 6:11-12a)

“And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one WHO ENDURES TO THE END will be saved.” (Matthew 24:12-13)

I. BUILDING BLOCKS OF PERSEVERANCE

Philippians 3:12 -

Building Block #1 - We need to have a humble, honest view of self welded to a delight in Jesus' loving, securing, and saving work!

Note: These verses here are a forceful rejection of spiritual perfectionism.

“Though he [Paul] was a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17), with a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26), a new disposition that strongly desired holiness (Romans 7:22), was united with Christ (Galatians 2:20), possessed a renewed mind (Romans 12:2), had the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), had right standing before God (Romans 8:1), had been justified (Romans 5:1), had been forgiven (Ephesians 1:7), had Christ's righteousness imputed to him (2 Corinthians 5:21), and was indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9, 11), PAUL WAS NOT PERFECT.” (John MacArthur)

Revelation 3:1; Revelation 3:17; Judges 16:20; Acts 9:4; Romans 8:29

Philippians 3:13-14 -

Building Block #2 - Intense focus is NECESSARY! Distraction will lead to disaster!

Mark 10:21; Luke 10:41-42; Psalm 27:4; Nehemiah 6:3

Philippians 3:13-14 -

Building Block #3 - Your past successes (or your past failures) don't guarantee success (or failure) in the present or future; you must choose to take the right next step today!

2 Corinthians 12:9

Philippians 3:14 -

Building Block #4 - We successfully persevere by aggressively living for, longing for, and looking forward to our future with Christ!

Philippians 3:20-21

Philippians 3:15-16 -

Building Block #5 - Recognize that perseverance is a church-wide project, AND it is something that you must ultimately trust God to accomplish in the lives of those you love!

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What does Paul say about himself in these verses (Philippians 3:12-16)?
2. According to the end of verse 12, what had Jesus done for Paul?
3. What is the "one thing" that Paul aspires to do in verse 13?
4. What does it mean in verse 13 to "forget" what lies behind? What does it not mean?
5. What is the goal and the prize that Paul has in mind in verse 15?
6. How do verses 15-16 express patience towards the Philippians and trust in God?