

Series: Enduring The Race

Message: Part 1

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-3 (NASB)

Speaker: Randy Pope

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1 Corinthians 9:24

²⁴ *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.*

Philippians 3:12-14

¹² *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.*

Hebrews 12:1

¹ *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

Two Life Realities

1. The Only Race Worthy Of My Full Devotion Is That Of Becoming A Mature And Equipped Follower Of Christ.

Philippians 3:12

¹² *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.*

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*

⁹ *not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

¹⁰ *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Acts 26:12-18

¹² *"In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.*

¹³ *At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me.*

¹⁴ *And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the*

Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

¹⁵ *And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.*

¹⁶ *But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,*

¹⁷ *delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you*

¹⁸ *to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'*

Philippians 3:13-14

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.*

Being single-minded

Being forward-reaching

Philippians 3:15

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.*

A mature and equipped believer is someone who:

- 1) is living consistently under the control of the Holy Spirit, the direction of the Word of God, and the compelling love of Christ,
- 2) has discovered, developed and are using their spiritual gifts,
- 3) has learned to effectively share their faith, while demonstrating radical love that amazes those it touches,
- 4) gives evidence of being
 - a faithful member of God's church
 - an effective manager of life, relationships and resources,
 - a willing minister to others including "the least of these", and
 - an available messenger to non-Kingdom people, and
- 5) demonstrates a life characterized as
 - gospel driven,
 - worship focused,
 - morally pure,
 - evangelistically bold,
 - discipleship grounded,
 - family faithful, and
 - socially responsible.

- 1) A Member Of God's Church
- 2) A Manager Of Life, Relationship & Resources
- 3) A Minister To Others Within The Body Of Christ
- 4) A Messenger To Non-Kingdom People

Next Week:

2. The Only Way To Become A Mature And Equipped Follower Of Christ Is To Run With Endurance.