

THE RACE WORTH RUNNING

Philippians 3:12–4:1

Training for Maturity

3:12–16

- Paul understands he's not perfect but keeps his focus on Christ as he grows in holiness.
- Paul wants to grow in Christ and longs for perfect fellowship that will come through glorification.
- Jesus Christ and fellowship with Him is Paul's prize, so he exerts himself as he seeks to know Jesus more.
- The more Christians grow in spiritual maturity, the more we realize how much we still need to grow!

Set your sights on growing in Christ, and _____ to that end.

**How will you train more effectively for
the race to which you've been called?**

Imitating for Maturity

3:17– 4:1

- Paul invites the Philippians to join him in humble and radical obedience to Christ.
- The Philippians could be imitating those who walk in opposition to Christ, but Paul reminds them to rely on grace for sanctification.
- Christians belong to Christ and can be confident of our citizenship in heaven as we await our coming Savior.

**Live your life so that its imitation will
lead someone else to deeper maturity.**

**How is the Lord inviting you to run _____
race with all _____ strength?**

1 Corinthians 4:16

I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:7–9

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate.

Titus 2:11–12

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age...

1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (NLT)

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.

Ephesians 2:4–7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Mark 12:30–31

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”