

Pressing on for the Prize (Phil 3:12-4:1)

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THE GOAL

(3:12) Paul pursues the not-yet finished-course Christ gave him & pursues maturity

Paul does not want to be misunderstood in 3:1–11

Lay hold of = *katalambanō* Paul was mature; yet Christ continues to mature him

Thus, *mature* (trans. *perfect* in NKJV) v 12 reconciles with *mature* v 15

(3:13-14) Past accomplishments must not distract from the prize: full reward

Prize = *brabeion*. This is a rewards context.

(3:15) All who are mature should focus w/o distraction on the prize: full reward, but God will clarify (through the word) on issues where they may not (yet) see things as Paul does

(3:16) Philippians/Paul are to aim single-mindedly at the prize: full reward

OUR CITIZENSHIP

(3:17) The Philippians are to join Paul & note those following Paul's example [following Christ]

(3:18) Unfortunately, many believers have defected & now oppose the gospel

(3:19) Earth-focused believers (who join 3:2's legalists) face discipline

(3:20-21) They face discipline because believers are heavenly citizens awaiting the rapture, when Christ will transform us (before subduing all)

(4:1) Believers (for whom Paul will give an account) must stand fast in God

CONCLUSION