



Paul tells Christians while imprisoned in Rome at the end of his life that there is **"...one thing I do..."** **Philippians 3:13b NKJV**

Of course Paul did many things in his life but he sums it up for us to also **"do one thing"**.

That should make it easy for every Christian shouldn't it... just one thing to focus on?

What is this one thing we should do?

It is... Run the right race to finish right!



Ah... but what does Paul mean by that?

There are actually 3 parts to this one thing of running right to finish the race!

1. **"forgetting those things which are behind..."** **Philippians 3:13c NKJV**

Forget the ground you've already covered. Don't waste time over the past. We never see runners looking back to see what they've accomplished or not accomplished, as they know that what's behind doesn't matter if they don't run right the rest of the way and finish the race.

How can this be adapted to a Christian race?

This means we can't bask in our past accomplishments thinking we're done nor be disheartened if we've fallen and think we're done. The evil realm will want you to stop your race and so will do whatever they can to stop you, waste your time, delay you, distract you, and/or put you in a different race. If you stop to spend time on where you've been, they've won. Our job, Paul says, is to **"do one thing"**, which looking behind isn't a part of the Christianity race!

2. **"...and reaching forward to those things which are ahead"** **Philippians 3:13d NKJV**

If you watch a runner in a race, they're straining every muscle, every nerve and every ounce of strength is drawn from, in order to meet the challenge of finishing the race. Not just to finish, but to win! They aren't looking at the crowd cheering them; nothing distracts them, and nothing stops them. It looks like they're running for their life.

How many Christians has anyone seen pressing to the finish line like this? I can only think of a few!

Perhaps many will say they know plenty of Christians that spent their lives helping "the church", handing out tracts, lives spent as missionaries and so on, but whose race were they running, on what track and on what day?

Looking back at runners, do they ever start running before or after the race is started by the officials? Do they ever race on a Tuesday when the race is being held Saturday?

Do they ever race a marathon when the race right now is a 100 yd. dash? Do they ever race in New York when the race is being held in Toronto?

You will NEVER see a runner do any of these things! That would be foolish! Would officials and other serious runners take such foolish runners seriously? On the other hand, you will see almost 100% of Christians doing every one of these things! Isn't that still then foolish?

Christians are in a spiritual race, not a flesh race! We have spiritual races, spiritual timing, spiritual officiating and spiritual goals. When a Christian decides what race they're going to run, when, where, with who, why, how and which way, then they've just made themselves god... a.k.a. idol worship. God doesn't stop them from this foolishness, as we all have our own will, but Christians shouldn't fool themselves into thinking they're accomplishing anything... it is deception, sinful and counter-productive to their finishing a proper race.

If you don't believe me, study God's Word a little deeper for His Truth or check the teaching in our website archive called "Self As God" when Pastor Howard Pittman had a near death experience and was told by God that all he had been doing as a pastor for 35 years had been a waste, as God said to him, "Your faith is dead, your works are in vain, the life that you lived and offered to Me as a Christian service I rejected as an abomination and a Pharisee. What made you think I would take that from a Laodicea type Christian? In fact untold millions are living the same life that you live and they stay in danger of my everlasting wrath"!

3. **"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14**

Runners in a race know where the finish line is; they know when they're done and they don't stop until they're done. They're bodies; mind and eyes are fixed on that finish line. Stepping out of bounds, running the wrong way, taking a break, doing what they want to do in a race, will get them disqualified. If they don't finish; they don't win anything. Does anyone think they should? Should foolish runners receive the same medals and ribbons as those who ran the right race! And... what is the prize for those not interested in God's perfect will or running in His race... only desiring to run in the world's race, after their own flesh desires? Look it up!

**"<sup>24</sup>Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. <sup>26</sup>Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." I Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV**

Paul says that he strives and fights and disciplines himself to **"do one thing"**! He only ever followed the spiritual official that organizes the race. When God says there's a race today, here's where it is, here's what time it starts, here's what I want you to do in this race... only then did Paul move **"not with uncertainty"**. Runners in a race know exactly what they're doing as it's all set out for them. All they have to do is move when the gun goes off. Until then, don't move!

It's that simple! Every Christian needs to develop their spiritual relationship with God; open their spiritual senses (can't race deaf, blind, with no sense of feeling); and move in the spiritual realm (go in the spirit)... so they can run the right race and hit the right finish line.

**Don't be disqualified! Receive your imperishable crown! Go... **"Do one thing"**!**