

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

Drawn from “True Completion,” A Sermon on Philippians 3:12-16

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Pres Tacoma

June 7, 2026 AM

1. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti argued that Paul in this passage “urges us to think of the Christian life as a race.” Talk about your most memorable, noteworthy, or humorous experience of running in a footrace, or of running in general.
2. In verse 12 Paul begins this paragraph with a denial that he is “perfect” (ESV). Recall Pastor Nicoletti’s comments on this concept and discuss why it is so important for Paul. *(An interesting and relevant exegetical detail to consider: the Greek word translated as “mature” in verse 15 is the adjectival form of the **same** word translated as “am...perfect” in verse 12. Compare with James 1:4)*
3. If it’s true that Christians are already united to Christ, already sharing His righteous standing and other gospel benefits, then why does Paul urge us to join him in “forgetting what lies behind,” in “straining forward,” and in “pressing on?” In other words, if we **already** have the saving benefits of being united to Christ, then **what remains** for us to pursue?

