

ENCORE / Sermon Discussion Questions

Running the Race

Philippians 3:12-21 / Date 11-10-19 / Paul Sommerfeld

GETTING STARTED

What is your favorite sport? Did you play in high school or college?

OVERVIEW

Teammates know the perseverance and determination that is required to win their sport and attain the prize. Each person of the team must set their sight on the goal and follow the game plan. They cheer one another on to press forward when it is difficult. In the last half of Philippians 3, Paul aptly compares the Christian's life to running a race. Although this comparison is 2000 years old, it is deep and practical for our lives today.

DIG DEEPER

1. What impacted you most from the sermon this week?
2. **Read Philippians 3:8-14.** What are some of the qualities of a good athlete?
 - What is the goal of the race as a believer and what does that look like?
 - What phrases are used to describe the race? How do these mesh with **Colossians 1:29**?
 - Why is it important to not dwell on the past failures or past achievements and press on?
3. **Read Philippians 3:15-17.**
 - What are some ways believers partner together in pursuing the goal of Christlikeness?
 - Who are those that God has placed in your life as faithful examples to follow?
 - Being broken people, what does it mean to be a good example by modeling repentance?
4. **Read Philippians 3:18-21.** Are you sure you are running the right direction (toward the cross) in the race?
 - Who are you trying to influence to join the race as a Christian? Pray for them specifically.
 - In thinking of heaven and a new body, does that encourage you to persevere? Why?

APPLY

5. List your priorities in life. List what should change for Christlikeness to come first.
6. What is your life like when your priorities get mixed up?
7. How can you implement one quality of an athlete in your spiritual life to improve your run?