

## Sunday, December 31, 2023

*1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."*

**Title:** Running the Race of Faith

**Series:** New Year's Devotional

**Text:** Philippians 3:1 - 21

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to maintain a vision set on the finish line of our journey with Christ Jesus our Lord!

### Introduction:

What an evening of blessing was last Sunday night. A time of Faith, Family, Friends, and Fellowship

~ Here we are at the end of 2023 and preparing to launch into the New Year.

~ 2 Timothy 4:5 – 8, *"As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (6) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."*

~ Tips on running the race.

### 1. Be in the Moment: Philippians 3

~ vs. 1, Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you." **GUARD YOUR FAITH!**

vs. 2 – 3

*Acts 2:42, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."*

~ Isaiah 43:18 – 19, *"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. (19) Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

~ Learn our lessons from the past but do not live in the past. George Santayana wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

~ Not our pedigree

~ Not our failures

~ Not our accomplishments

### 2. Be Focused on Christ Jesus:

~ vs. 8, *"Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ"*

~ Matthew 6:33, Psalm 27:4, Philippians 3:13 – 14

~ Someone once said, 'The enemy of the best is the good.'

~ Mark 8:36, *"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"*

~ What blessings of the Lord Jesus Christ have I missed because I chased after good things of the world?

### DO NOT LIVE IN THAT FAILING BUT REPENT AND RUN THE RACE OF FAITH.

~ 1 Timothy 1:19, *"holding faith and a good conscience, by rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,"*

### 3. Be Dependent on the Holy Spirit:

~ vs. 10 – 12, *"that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (11) that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (12) Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own."*

~ vs. 13, Do I 'strain;' this is the only time this Greek word is used. The idea is to stretch...strain!

~ vs. 14, *"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*

~ Luke 11:1 – 13 and Matthew 11:25 – 30

### DO NOT RELY ON YOUR OWN GOD GIVEN ABILITIES BUT YIELD TO THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

### Conclusion:

Philippians 3:20 – 21, *"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."*