

Growing in Christ
Philippians 3:12-14

Big Idea: Growing in Christ is an acknowledgement that we have yet to be perfected and a striving to enter into the rest of Christ.

How do we Grow in Christ's Practical Righteousness?

1. First, we must _____ that we are *NOT* Perfected.

Philippians 3:12 (ESV) — 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect...

Philippians 3:13 (ESV) — 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own...

This side of glory, we are not yet what we long to be.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) — 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) — 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (ESV) — 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, **kept in heaven for you, 5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith **for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

2. Second, we must _____ to *REST* in Christ's Perfection.

Philippians 3:12-14 (ESV) — 12... but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 ...But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Press on/straining forward:

In the Christian life, we *strive to rest* in Christ.

The proper way to grow in Christ is to strive to enter into the rest of Christ's perfection.

Turn to Hebrews 4:1-11, 10:11-14.

There is **no rest** from the enticements of the world, the flesh, or the devil. But there is **rest** in Christ. Therefore this is the tension that we all must endure. **We must strive to enter into Christ's rest.**

Questions to consider

- What can we learn from the Apostle Paul's battle that can inform our own Christian walk?
- In what ways does the flesh still try to entice you back to your old life? What promises of salvation in Christ might you use to preach the gospel to yourself in those moments?
- What images do pressing on and straining forward invoke for you?
- Toward what are we striving for?
- How does the perfection of Christ's work encourage obedience to God's ways?

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