



**Philippians 3:12** 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.<sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.<sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.<sup>16</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

## RECOGNIZING THE STARTING LINE

**1 Peter 1:3** 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,<sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**1 Peter 1:13** Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.



## UNDERSTANDING THE RACE

**1 Peter 2:21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.<sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.<sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.



## UNDERSTANDING THE RACE

**Titus 3:1** Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,<sup>2</sup>to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

<sup>3</sup>For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.<sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,<sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,<sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,<sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## UNDERSTANDING THE RACE

**2 Timothy 2:15** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

**Hebrews 12:1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,<sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Hebrews 12:12** Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,<sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

## UNDERSTANDING THE RACE

**1 Corinthians 9:24** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.<sup>25</sup> Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we, an imperishable.<sup>26</sup> So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.<sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

## UNDERSTANDING THE RACE

**2 Peter 1:3** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,<sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,<sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,<sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.<sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## UNDERSTANDING THE RACE

**Romans 12:9** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.<sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.<sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.<sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.<sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.<sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.<sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."<sup>20</sup> To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## UNDERSTANDING THE RACE

**1 John 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.<sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

## UNDERSTANDING THE FINISH LINE

**1 Peter 1:3** 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,<sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**1 Corinthians 1:18** For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Romans 8:34** Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.



## UNDERSTANDING THE FINISH LINE

**Hebrews 7:25** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

**1 Corinthians 9:24** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.<sup>25</sup> Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we, an imperishable.<sup>26</sup> So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.



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## UNDERSTANDING THE FINISH LINE

**Colossians 3:1** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.<sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.<sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.<sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**Acts 2:24** But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.



## LOOKING FOR THE FINISH LINE

**2 Timothy 4:7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.<sup>8</sup>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.

**2 Peter 1:11** For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 3:12** 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.

<sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,<sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

