

The Focus and Determination of a Joyful Christian Philippians 3:12-17

I. Introduction

The Christian life is a life of growth (1 John 2:12-14).

II. What does the process of Christian growth entail?

- A. Christians mature as they reflect upon God's goal for their lives (Philippians 3:10-12; Galatians 1:15-16; Romans 8:28-29).
- B. Christians mature as they exercise a constant vigilance against false doctrines (Philippians 3:13-14; 1 Corinthians 4:6-13, 6:12, 10:23).
- C. Christians mature as they refuse to focus on past successes and failures (Philippians 3:13).
- D. Christians mature as they run the race with earnestness (Philippians 3:13b-14; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Hebrews 12:1-2).

III. Implications

A. For the Church:

We must remember that our goal is to honor and glorify Christ in all we do (Philippians 3:15-16; Ephesians 4:11-16).

B. For the Individual:

Imitate those who are continuing to grow spiritually, not those who are stagnating (Philippians 3:17).