

— WEEKLY —  
**BIBLE  
STUDY**  
**NOTES**

## Reflection and Discussion

Read through [Philippians 3:12-21](#), which will be the focus of this week's study. Then review the following questions concerning this section of the book of Philippians and write your own responses. (For further background, see the ESV Study Bible, page 2286, available online at [www.esvbible.org](http://www.esvbible.org)).

1. Last week's passage ended on a high, exultant note ([Phil. 3:1-11](#)), while this week's begins in a more tempered tone. How might [Philippians 3:12-14](#) be a clarification of [Philippians 3:1-11](#)? Looking through the rest of the passage ([Phil. 3:15-21](#)), do you see any other reason why Paul writes about his imperfect pursuit of Christ in [Philippians 3:12-13](#)?

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2. [Philippians 3:12](#) provides three motivating factors in Paul's pursuit of Christ. Why does Paul "press on," according to this verse?

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3. What language does Paul use in [Philippians 3:12-14](#) to describe his approach to the Christian life? What imagery is he conveying? What does it say about the nature of Christian growth?

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4. What "lies behind" that Paul resolves to "forget" ([Phil. 3:13](#))? (Hint: don't limit your consideration to negative things of the past.)

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5. Paul attests that he is constantly “straining forward to what *lies ahead*,” “toward the *goal*,” which is “the *prize of the upward call*” ([Phil. 3:13–14](#)). What is he referring to here? Is this a theme found elsewhere in [Philippians 3](#)?

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6. When Paul speaks to “those . . . who are *mature*” in [Philippians 3:15](#), he uses the same Greek word as in [Philippians 3:12](#): “Not that I . . . am already *perfect*.” He is *not* perfect, but then he addresses those who *are* perfect. How do we reconcile these two things?

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