

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SERMON NOTES
NOVEMBER 08, 2020**

**"PHILIPPIANS: The Goal"
Philippians 3:12-4:1**

Having just stated how his conversion reoriented him to making Jesus his central focus and priority, Paul now explains how his present life is a pursuit of this new direction (he also seeks to remove any possible misunderstandings). Look with me...

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears,

many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

4 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!"

In summary (from Philippians), how we stand firm:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

"This morning let's commit ourselves to 'live up to what we have already attained' and to 'stand firm in the Lord' until the day we reach our goal!"