

January 30, 2022 Creek Notes

MESSAGE: The Starting Line: Eyes Ahead

Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)

13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it,^[a] but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

New Series is called: The Starting Line

I. Paul was a Sports Fan

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (ESV)

[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. [25] Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath [crown – nkjv], but we an imperishable [crown – nkjv]. [26] So I do not run aimlessly

Galatians 5:7 (ESV)

You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT)

...train yourself to be godly. 8“Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better,

2 Timothy 4:6-7 (ESV)

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)

¹... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

-We as individual believers & as a church are in a race...:

..but it is a marathon not a sprint

--runners in a race, race for one thing:: TO WIN

II. Forgetting the Past and Eyes Ahead Looking Forward

–don't hold onto the past in a way that is keeping you from MOVING FORWARD

...don't let it hinder you, or even worse, DERAIL you in your journey forward

–NO ONE runs a race by looking backwards

–Keep looking forward towards the goal

–we have a race to win

...you keep your eyes ahead to WHERE YOU ARE HEADED...WHERE YOU ARE GOING....

III. The Prize

–we want to win individually and as a church we want to help people win

–the prize is: growing and maturing in Christ and eventually gaining the crown of life (Rev. 2:10)
the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)

–and as a church family, we win together

IV. Make it **Personal**

..LET'S KICK IT INTO ANOTHER GEAR & RUN TO **WIN**...

...RUN TO **THE MARK**...

...RUN TO **OBTAIN THE GOAL**

..as a **church**: souls, people finding Christ & growing in Him (discipleship/sanctification)

..as **individuals**: running your personal race to WIN & to take as many loved ones
& people with you

Galatians 6:9 (ESV)

9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.