**WINNING THE RACE PHILIP 3:12-16**

**IN *VERSES 1-11* THE APOSTLE PAUL TELLS US OF HIS *PAST* IN *VERSES 12-16* HE TELLS US OF HIS *PRESENT* AND IN VERSES 17-21 HE TELLS US OF HIS *FUTURE***

***PAUL IS APPRAISING HIS LIFE* FROM HEAVENS POINT OF VIEW HE IS VIEWING HIS LIFE WITH *A SPIRITUAL MIND* HIS *CIRCUMSTANCES* HAD NOT CHANGED *PEOPLE* HAD NOT CHANGED AND *THINGS* HAD NOT CHANGED**

***HERE PAUL GIVES US A GLIMPSE OF HIS MINDSET* IN HIS PRESENT CONDITION HE IS *STILL IN THE RACE* AND HE IS RUNNING TO WIN HE IS STILL GROWING STILL MOVING FORWARD**

**V12-13 *HE KNEW HE HAD NOT ATTAINED PERFECTION* GOD’S WORK IN HIM AND THROUGH HIM WAS NOT YET DONE HE WOULD *PRESS ON* NOT EVALUATING HIS LIFE BY HIS PAST FORGETTING WHAT LIES BEHIND ITS NOT THAT HE DOES NOT REMEMBER HIS PAST WHAT HE IS SAYING IS THAT HE IS NO LONGER *CONTROLLED BY IT***

***ONE THING I DO* HE IS *REACHING FORWARD* TO WHAT IS AHEAD WE *BREAK THE POWER OF THE PAS*T BY LIVING FOR THE FUTURE YOUR *PAST HAD ITS PURPOSE* AND GOOD OR BAD IT CANT BE CHANGED**

***THIS IS WHAT GOD HAD USED* TO GET PAUL *WHERE HE WAS* NOW IT HAD *FULFILLED ITS PURPOSE* AND IT WAS TIME TO MOVE ON WITH HIS LIFE THE WAY HE VIEWED HIS PAST HAD CHANGED**

***PEOPLE ARE OFTEN CONTROLLED BY THEIR PAST* THE ARE UNABLE TO *VIEW TIME AS FLOWING FROM THE FUTURE INTO THE PRESENT AND THEN INTO THE PAST* OUR LIVES ARE FLOWING FROM THE FUTURE *WE ARE NOT DRIFTING FROM THE PAST***

**GENESIS 50:19-20 THIS IS THE WAY *JOSEPH ALSO VIEWED HIS LIFE* HE TOLD HIS BROTHERS DO NOT BE AFRAID FOR I AM IN GOD’S PLACE GOD WAS AT WORK IN HIM SO HE COULD WORK THROUGH HIM**

***HOW DO YOU VIEW YOUR LIFE IS IT FLOWING FROM THE FUTURE OR DRIFTING FROM THE PAST* ARE YOULIVING IN FORWARD OR REVERSE *YOU DON’T RUN FROM THE FINISH LINE TO WIN YOU RUN TO THE FINISH* *LINE TO WIN***

**V14 *THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD*  MOVING FORWARD IN CHRIST JESUS BEING CONFORMED TO HIS IMAGE BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS IN OUR *ATTITUDES AND OUR ACTIONS* AS WE PRESS ON IN THE RACE THAT GOD HAS SET BEFORE US**

**V15 HAVING A *SPIRITUAL ATTITUDE* GOING FORWARD PRESSING ON TO MATURITY *RUNNING TO WIN* NOT BEING DISTRACTED BY THE TEMPORARY TROUBLES IN THIS LIFE HEB 12:1-3 KEEPING YOUR EYES ON THE *AUTHOR AND PERFECTER* OF OUR FAITH JESUS HAD CONTINUED HIS COURSE HE HAD WON HIS RACE**

***PAUL ALSO* FINISHED HIS COURSE 2TIM 4:7-8 HE LIVED HIS LIFE KEEPING HIS EYES ON THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF HIS FAITH *JESUS* AWAITING HIS *REWARD HIS CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS* AND JESUS RETURN AS KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS TO RULE AND REIGN IN A NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH WHERE RIGHTEOUSNESS DWELLS 2PETER 3:13**

***MANY STAY IN THE SAME RUT* THE ONLY WAY TO MOVE FORWARD IS BY FAITH HEB 11:1 BEING SURE OF WHAT YOU HOPE FOR AND CERTAIN OF WHAT YOU HAVE NOT SEEN HEB 11:6 BECAUSE WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD JESUS CAME TO SET YOU FREE *TIME TO MOVE FORWARD* LET THE PAST BE THE PAST GROW FORWARD**

**V16 *LIVING BY THE SAME STANDARD* STAY ON THE RIGHT TRACK DON’T BE DRAWN OFF COURSE *THE VICTORY* HAS ALREADY BEEN WON JESUS HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR US NOT ONLY LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE BUT EQUIPPING US WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT TO COMPLETE THE WORK OF SALVATION THAT WAS BEGUN IN US**

***WE WERE GIVEN HOPE* THE PROMISE OF *A FUTURE INHERITANCE THAT WILL NOT FADE AWAY* 1PETER 1:3-9**

***SALVATION BEGINS HERE BUT IT GOES PAST THIS LIFE INTO THE NEXT IT MOVES FORWARD* PERFECTION AWAITS JESUS IS COMING BACK FOR HIS BRIDE HIS CHURCH HAVING PREPARED A PLACE FOR US THAT WHERE HE IS THERE WE SHALL ALSO BE**

***WINING THE RACE THAT HAS BEEN SET BEFORE US* 2THESS 4:13-18**