

IF BY ANY MEANS I MIGHT ATTAIN UNTO
THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

THE PRIZE

VALOR IN LOOKING
FORWARD

I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF
THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD **IN CHRIST JESUS.**

JULY 2009

ALWAYS LOOKING AHEAD TO THE PRIZE

SINCE OUR HUMAN BODY WILL ONE DAY DIE, WE NEED TO THINK LIKE PAUL. HE KNEW HE WOULD EVENTUALLY DIE **PREACHING THE GOSPEL** SO HE LOOKED BEYOND AND PURSUED HIS RESURRECTION BODY FROM **CHRIST JESUS.**

JESUS CHRIST LOOKED BEYOND HIS CRUCIFIXION AND SAW HIS RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION UP TO GOD IN HEAVEN. **CHRIST JESUS** WAS THE VERY FIRST BORN FROM THE DEAD. AND WITH HIS **RESURRECTION** CAME THE HOPE THAT **EVERY BELIEVER WHO RECEIVED THE LIFE OF CHRIST,** WOULD ALSO RISE AGAIN TO STAND UPRIGHT IN A NEW BODY FROM HEAVEN.



—LET'S GO ON NOW TO HEAR THE APOSTLE PAUL: —Philippians 3:12-14. KJV.

"NOT AS THOUGH I HAD ALREADY ATTAINED, EITHER WERE ALREADY PERFECT: BUT I FOLLOW AFTER, IF THAT I MAY APPREHEND THAT FOR WHICH ALSO I AM APPREHENDED OF CHRIST JESUS.

PAUL WAS LITERALLY SEIZED AND APPREHENDED BY **CHRIST** WHILE PERSECUTING **CHRIST'S CHURCH.** LATER, AFTER BEING A

FOLLOWER OF **CHRIST** FOR MANY YEARS, PAUL SAYS THAT HE HAD NOT YET BEEN PERFECTED IN CHARACTER, BUT HE PURSUED TO SEIZE **CHRIST** AS HIS TREASURED PRIZE.

"BREthern, I COUNT NOT MYSELF TO HAVE APPREHENDED: BUT THIS ONE THING I DO, FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND, AND REACHING FORTH TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEFORE,

PAUL (WHEN HE WAS SAUL) HAD A LOT OF PAST EVIL, TO FORGET. SAUL WAS AMONG THE MOB AT THE STONING OF STEPHEN, THE MARTYR. FROM THERE SAUL MADE A CAREER OUT OF PERSECUTING THE FOLLOWERS OF **CHRIST.**

BUT NOW, **IN CHRIST,** PAUL WOULD STRETCH HIMSELF FORWARD UPON THE THINGS **CHRIST** HAD IN FRONT OF HIM.

"I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.

IN RUNNING ANY RACE THERE IS A MARK OF STARTING AND A FINISHING MARK. WE DON'T START JUST ANYWHERE WE WANT, AND FINISH SOMEWHERE ELSE WE WANT.

"DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THEY THAT RUN IN A RACE ARE ALL RUNNERS, BUT ONE RECEIVES THE PRIZE?

SO RUN THAT YOU MAY OBTAIN THE PRIZE IN CHRIST. —SEE 1 COR 9: 24- 27—

IN EVERY PUBLIC GAME OR RACE THERE IS AN AWARD FOR WINNING. THERE IS NO REWARD FOR JUST RUNNING OR PARTICIPATING.

"AND EVERY MAN THAT STRIVES FOR THE MASTERY IS TEMPERATE IN ALL THINGS. NOW THEY DO IT TO OBTAIN A CORRUPTIBLE CROWN; BUT WE AN INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN.

IT TAKES A GREAT STRUGGLE TO COMPETE. WE CAN'T GROW SLACK AND STILL WIN A RACE. IF WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING, WE HAVE TO FACE HEAD ON, THE ADVERSITY THAT PREVENTS US. IT TAKES PERSONAL DISCIPLINE AND SELF RESTRAINT WHEN IT COMES TO THE FLESH DESIRES. BUT WE DO ALL THIS FOR AN IMMORTAL CROWN.



I RUN WITH CERTAINTY, AND I FIGHT WITH CERTAINTY, NOT AS ONE JUST BEATING THE AIR. —AS CHRISTIAN CONTESTANTS, WE HAVE TO KNOW THE TARGET , TO HIT IT.

BUT I KEEP MY BODY UNDER, AND BRING IT INTO SUBJECTION: LEST BY ANY MEANS WHEN I HAVE PREACHED TO OTHERS, I MYSELF SHOULD BE A CASTAWAY.

WE FIRST MUST SUBDUE OUR OWN BODY PASSIONS, IF WE HOPE TO SUBDUE OUR ADVERSARY. IF WE CAN BRING OURSELVES INTO SUBJECTION, THEN THERE IS HOPE IN OVERCOMING ON OUR WAY TO THE BIG PRIZE. AND WE WILL NOT BE DISQUALIFIED, BUT FIND APPROVAL IN THE WAY WE RAN.