



“Straining to the Finish”
Presenter: Jim Hammond

Talk It Over

Overflow
“Straining to the Finish”

- I. Following Jesus is _____
_____ a _____
- II. Run in the _____ lane
- III. Avoid the lanes that oppose the

- *The lane that _____ grace*
 - *The lane that _____
with grace*
 - *The lane that _____ grace*
- IV. It takes _____ to run straining to
the finish

SMALL TALK

1. Share a personal goal or aspiration that you have been pursuing recently. How has it challenged you?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Philippians 3:12-21.** In verse 12, Paul mentions that he has not yet "*arrived*" but is "*pressing on.*" What do you think he means by this?
3. **According to 3:17,** Paul urges the Philippians to join him in following his example. What specific qualities or actions does he want them to imitate? What clues were given in earlier portions of his letter?
4. Whereas Jewish legalistic thinking was one source of opposition to Christ, what kind of opposition is in view in **3:18-19**?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. How can we apply the concept of "*pressing on toward the goal*" (**3:14**) in our daily lives? What are some practical steps we can take to keep growing spiritually?
6. Comparing your spiritual life to a race, are you sitting it out due to lack of practice or an injury? Are you at the starting blocks? Going full tilt? Ready to give up? Why? What "hurdles" seem especially high?

MAKING PROGRESS (THIS WEEK)

7. What can you do to make the finish line as described in **3:20-21** more consistently your focus?

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