

## RUNNING TOWARDS THE GOAL

*"I do not claim that I have already become perfect. I keep striving to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won me to himself. Of course, my brothers, I do not think that I have already won it: The one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead."*

*(Philippians 3:12-13)*

Paul, in his letter to the Philippians describes how single minded he has become in his determination to run a straight race towards the goal of eternal life with God...

It is sure that he relied on the Holy Spirit to help him to disregard the past, the stoning, the beatings and most of all the sins for which he could now seek forgiveness from his Heavenly Father through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

In Paul's case his sins were grievous indeed as we are told how in his misplaced zeal, he dragged out of their houses men, women and children who were Christians and had them put to the sword. However no sin is so heinous that it is not covered by the blood of Jesus.

The fact of God's forgiveness must have been such great news for Paul much as it is for any criminal. That is why the good news of the Gospel is so well received in prisons. No one living is beyond redemption and it is never too late to turn to God.

All of us have sinned and offended God and the Bible tells us that he who says that he is without sin deceives himself and the truth is not in him. So let's think for one moment about the things in the past of which we are most ashamed. Then we can choose to confess them to our loving Father, thanking Him for His mercy and for Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross. Then let us endeavour to leave the past behind, all of it, and press forward like Paul towards the goal of eternal life.

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