

# Graduation Day

Pearlside Church

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**Sunday, May 1, 2022** | Pastor Russell Tolentino

*“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14 NIV)*

**Although following Jesus can be difficult, the Apostle Paul acknowledges in Philippians 3:12-14 that doing so is rewarding because of three promises:**

- **The promise of a new IDENTITY.**

*“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.” (v. 12)*

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV)*

- **The promise of a new PURPOSE.**

*“Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead...” (v. 13)*

*“So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:9-10 NIV)*

- **The promise of eternal LIFE.**

*“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (v. 14)*

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21 NIV)*

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