"Reach Forward"
Philippians 3:13-14

C.I.T.—Paul kept his eyes on the prize of God's upward call.
C.I.S.—We must keep our eyes on the prize of God's upward call.
Purpose—We cannot become content with how far we have come, but must always reach forward for the upward call of God.
Introduction—Video—We have exciting times coming ahead, but why are we putting this energy and money into this project?

I. ***Consideration Helps Us Reach Forward***. Vs 13a
   a. Consider
      i. Emphatic—I myself I do not
      ii. Consider means to examine and evaluate and to make a decision about it.
   b. Have taken hold of it
      i. Apprehend or receive or take
      ii. He has not achieved this goal.
   c. Goal/finish line—**Philippians 3:10-12**
   d. Illus.—Ivan Fernandez Anaya and Abel Mutai
   e. Application
      i. Let us not feel like we have arrived or are complete.
      ii. Yes, we are completely saved upon our conversion and salvation.
      iii. But that salvation is not the finish line, it is the starting line.
      iv. So many times, a church becomes content with what they have done.
      v. They take their foot off of the gas and sit back and relax.
      vi. We cannot quit before we finish, we must run the race set before us.
      vii. How then should we run that race to the finish?

II. ***Concentration Helps Us Reach Forward***. Vs. 13b
   a. **Phil. 3:12**—Make every effort to take hold of it
   b. Forgetting what lies behind
      i. Discouragement of failure.
      ii. Disillusionment of victory.
      iii. Distraction of trivial pursuits.
      iv. Defeat of persecution.
      v. Defilement of sin.
   c. Reaching forward
      i. Stretching as a racer stretches for the finish line
      ii. Energy, sweat, etc.
      iii. Focused on the finish line.
   d. Illus.—Gumne—racing naked
   e. Application
      i. We cannot run the race if we are burdened by all of our past issues.
      ii. We must give them to the Lord and move forward.
      iii. We have accomplished much in the last 100 years as a church.
      iv. The last three years have been the fastest growing three-year period in the last 65 years of our church.
      v. They also have been best three-year period in baptisms compared to SS size.
      vi. We cannot live in that, we must reach forward.

III. ***Coronation Helps Us Reach Forward***. Vs. 14
   a. My goal=the prize
   b. The divine call/heavenly call

c. In Christ Jesus
d. His success was not how far he had run in comparison to others or to his own standards, but the standards of God.
e. 2 Timothy 4:7-8
f. Illus.—Goal is the podium
g. Application
    i. We must continue our race until that upward call of God.
    ii. We cannot stop or slow, because we know that have a prize to win—that upward call.
    iii. I want that crown!

IV. Power Point Presentation
V. Conclusion
a. Commitment to pray, participate, and promise.
b. Feel led to come join me to pray for out church as we reach forward.
c. Invitation to join our church.

December 2, 2012, Spanish athlete Ivan Fernandez Anaya was competing in a cross-country race in Burlada, Navarre. He was on the last stretch of the race, in second place and was too far behind the leader to win the race. Unexpectedly, the leader, Abel Mutai from Kenya, stopped short 10 meters before the finish line. Instead of passing him and winning, Anaya stopped and shouted at Mutai to finish the race. When Mutai didn't understand him, Anaya then pushed Mutai to the finish line in order to win the race.

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved his appearing.

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I. C_____ Helps Us Reach Forward
II. C_____ Helps Us Reach Forward
a. D_____
b. D_____
c. D_____
d. D_____
e. D_____
III. C_____ Helps Us Reach Forward