




## Stand Firm

Philippians 3:12–4:1

Ray Cortese, May 18 & 19, 2019

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 It is sad when people make a start with Jesus, but then don't stand firm to the end. Have you known anyone like that?
- 2 What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

#### STAND FIRM: WORK

- 3 Christianity is hard work. Paul said, "I press on...I strain forward." Does that present a conflict with the doctrine of salvation by grace alone?

- 4 Does our culture have an aversion to hard work? Do you have an aversion to hard work? How would you define the hard work of Christianity?

STAND FIRM: FINISH

- 5 Since first becoming a Christian, are you still running hard or are you coasting? Why did Ray say, “The church is a safe place for struggle, but it is not a safe place for apathy”?
- 6 The apostle Paul said, “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect”. He did not think he had “arrived”; he knew he still had progress to make. Do you feel the same? In what areas of faith do you still have progress to make as a follower of Jesus?
- 7 Do you know someone who finished the Christian race well, all the way to the end?

STAND FIRM: REMEMBER

- 8 Paul said, “I press on to make it my own, because Jesus Christ has made me his own”. How does God’s pursuit of us propel our pursuit of Him?
- 9 What was the point of the illustration about the new Christian mom and her brain damaged child?
- 10 What kinds of things did you think about or pray about during communion?

### Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?