

A silhouette of a person running on a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The sky is filled with scattered white clouds. The runner is on the left side of the frame, moving towards the right.

Chasing after Christ

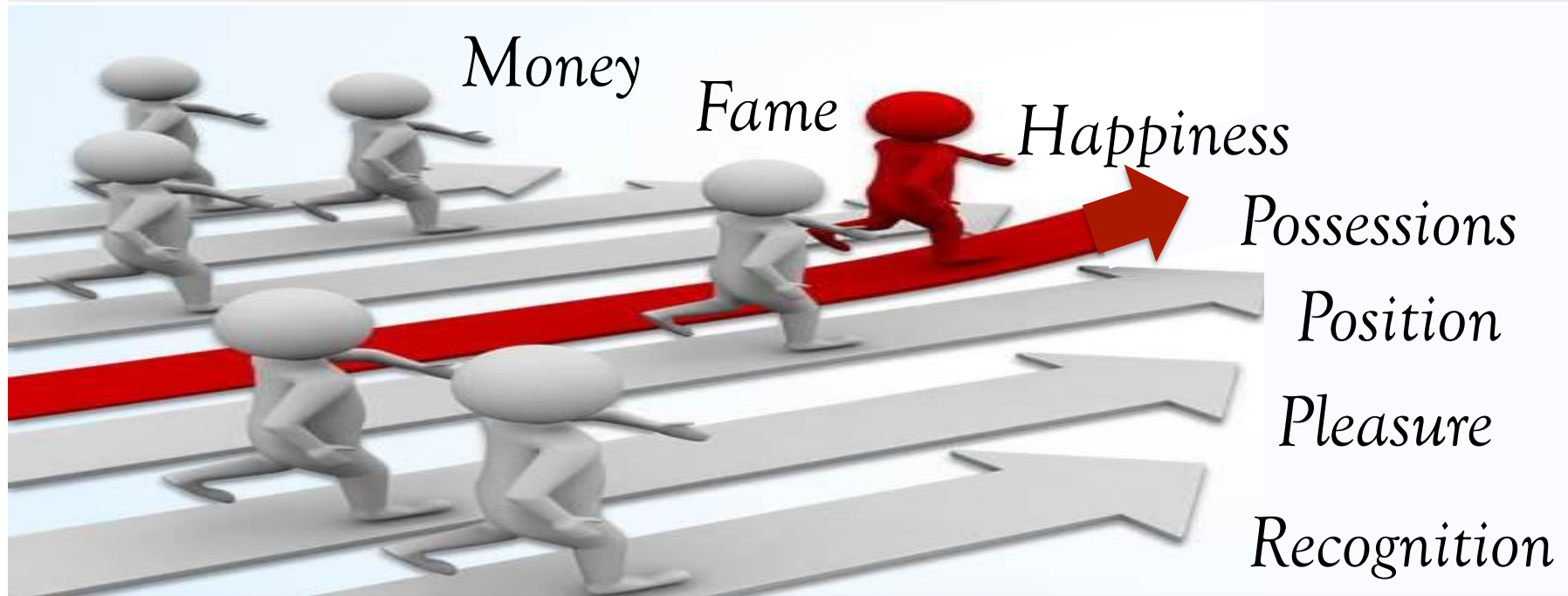
Philippians 3:10 - 21

Holy Light Church English

11-12 May 2024

Dr Tai Kim Teng

Life is always Chasing after Something



*Christians must pause & reflect on whether we are
Chasing the right things before it is too late!*

Ecclesiastes 2:11NLT But as **I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish**, it was **all so meaningless** — like **chasing the wind**. There was **nothing really worthwhile**



Wealth, Wisdom, Women = WIND

“worked so hard **chasing the wind**”

Only a life **Chasing after Christ** is meaningful & not chasing the wind as it *“has value ... for both the present life & the life to come.”*

1 Timothy 4:8



Job 1:21 “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart.”

Chasing after Christ

Philippians 3:10 - 21 (NLT)

Philippians 3:10 - 21 (NLT)

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! ¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus

on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the **race** and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. ¹⁵ Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. ¹⁶ But we must hold on to the progress we have already made. ¹⁷ Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. ¹⁸ For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.

¹⁹ They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. ²⁰ But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. ²¹ He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

Chasing after Christ

Our life is like a race chasing after Christ

Start race

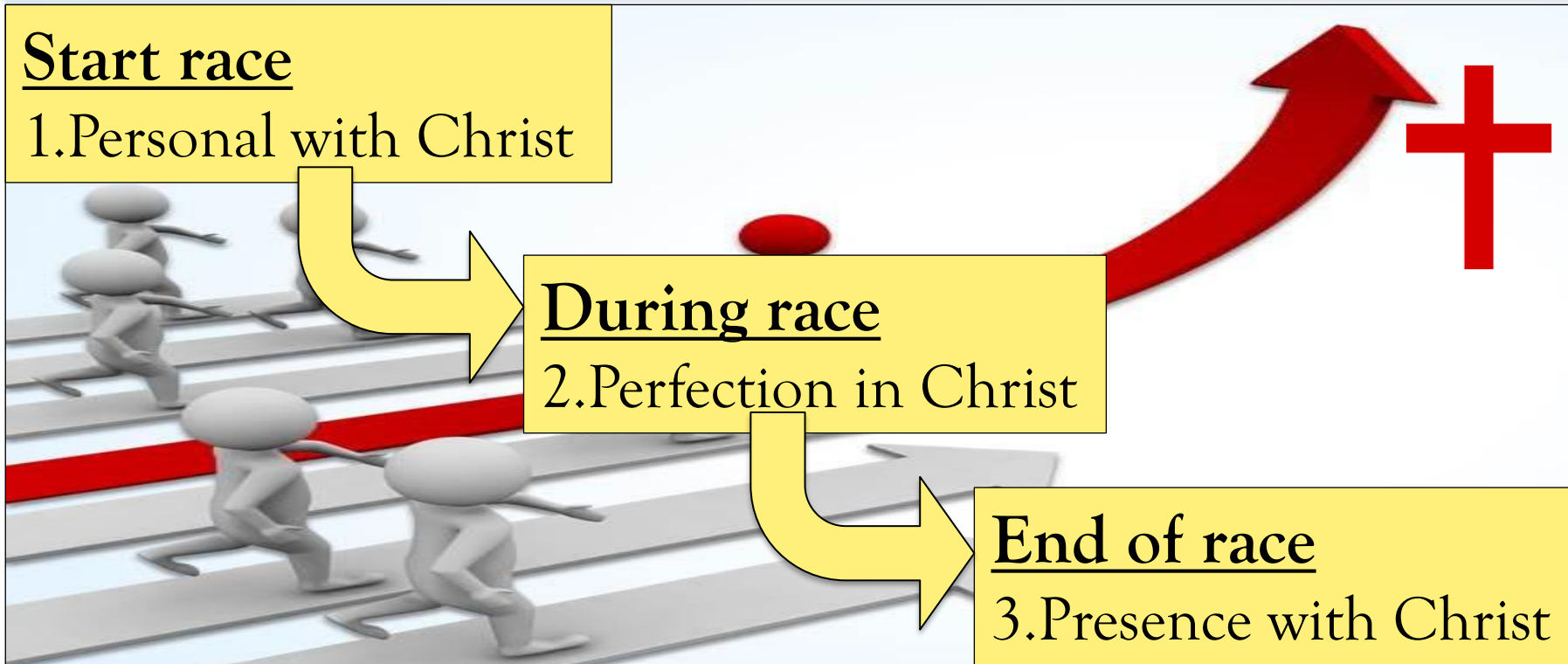
1. Personal with Christ

During race

2. Perfection in Christ

End of race

3. Presence with Christ



Starting the race

1. Personal with Christ

Philippians 3:10 - 4:1 (NLT)

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! ¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus

1. Personal with Christ

Philippians 3:10

“I want to **know Christ**”

Means a **personal heart relationship**

Paul did not say:

“I want to **know about Christ**”

Means an **impersonal head knowledge**



*heart
relationship*

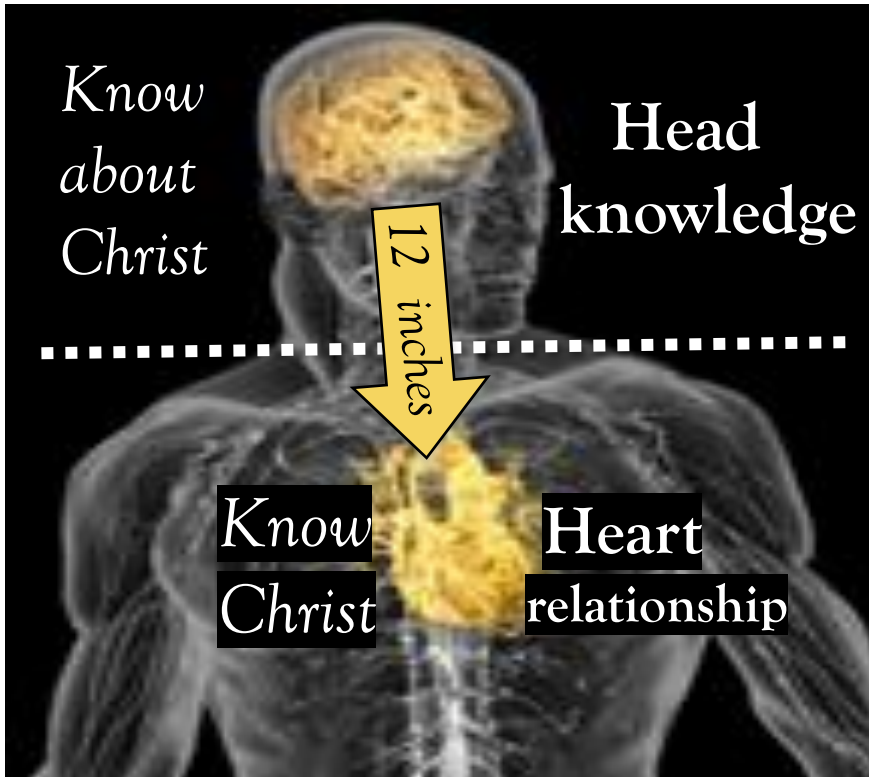
*head
knowledge*



“It is not enough to know about Christ,

it is knowing Christ that alone saves soul” Charles Spurgeon

Salvation requires conversion of **Head & Heart**



Romans 10:9 If you declare with your **mouth**, “**Jesus is Lord,**” **and** believe in your **heart** that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved.**

From **Head Knowledge**, all Christians
must progress to **Heart Relationship**

Just like marriage **relationship** - *Ephesians 5:25 (Analogy)*

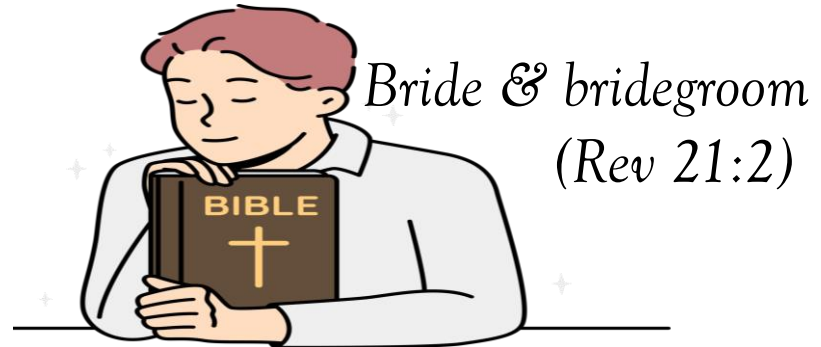
Husbands love Wives

1. **Time** for each other
2. **Talk** to each other
3. **Trust** each other

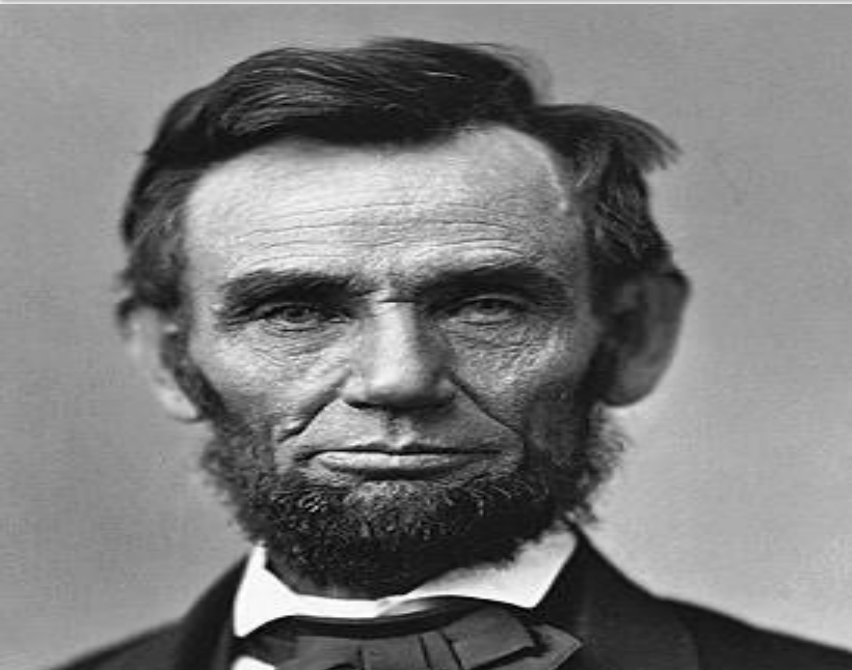


Christ loves Church

1. **Time** for Bible
2. **Talk** to Christ
3. **Trust** Christ



Personal heart relationship with Christ matters



Abraham Lincoln
1809-1865
16th President USA

American Civil war

1861-1865

Soldier

- know about President**-Head knowledge
- lost brother & father in war
- White House seek pardon
- guards stopped him

Todd (Lincoln's son)

- know President (Heart relationship)**
- met soldier at garden
- pass all guards

knowing Christ includes **suffering with Christ**

Philippians 3:10 I want to **know** Christ
andI want to **suffer** with him



**knowing Christ &
suffering with Christ co-exist**
1 package: indivisible

way of Christ = way of the cross

“God don’t waste your suffering”

1 Peter 2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps

A martyr who “follow Christ footsteps”

“I want to know Christ & suffer with Christ”

Blind evangelist that sees



1850-1900

Blind Chang Shen

Alcoholic, thief, gambler, gangster
Expel wife, daughter > prostitute
Blind-Christian hospital Manchuria
1886: Eyes partly healed, Soul healed
Christ appeared in dream. **Full Joy.**
Refused baptism, wait 4 months.
Founded 7 churches, 200 converts
James Webster baptised them.
Learn Braille & memorise Bible.
Preached 12 years, persecuted
1899: Boxer's rebellion, 32,000 killed
11 July 1900: Beheaded & burned
Ran away-afraid his resurrection

Chasing after Christ

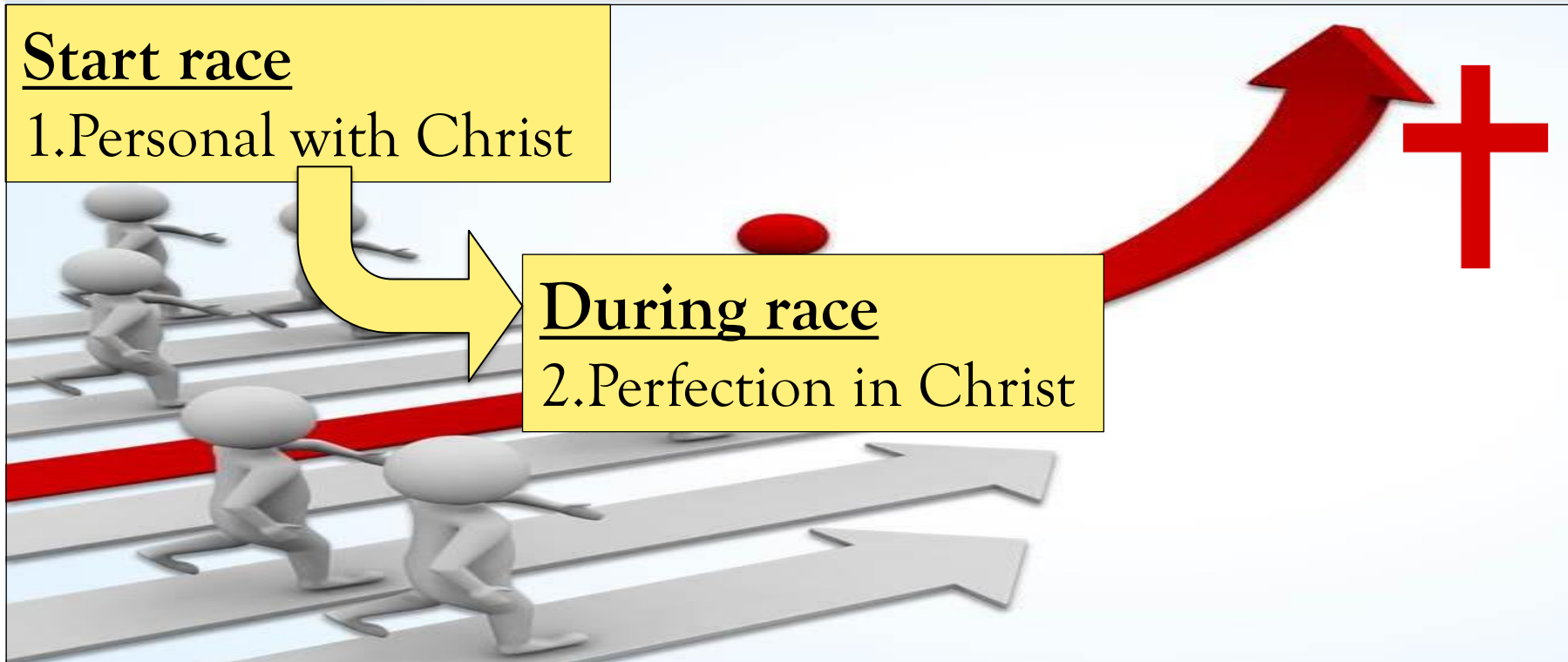
2nd part of our race chasing after Christ

Start race

1. Personal with Christ

During race

2. Perfection in Christ



During the race

2. Perfection in Christ

Philippians 3:12 - 4:1 (NLT)

¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and

2. Perfection in Christ

The goal of Chasing after Christ
is to reach perfection in Christ



2. Perfection in Christ

**But no one is ever perfect in Christ
That doesn't mean we cannot try**



When taking exam, we try
for the perfect 100% marks
(*no one aim for 50% or less*)

In the end, we achieve 80 %
& that is good enough.

“well done, good & faithful servant”
Matthew 25:23

Growth in Perfection in Christ is vital

1 Peter 1:16 “Be holy, because I am holy”

Christians are all

work in perfection



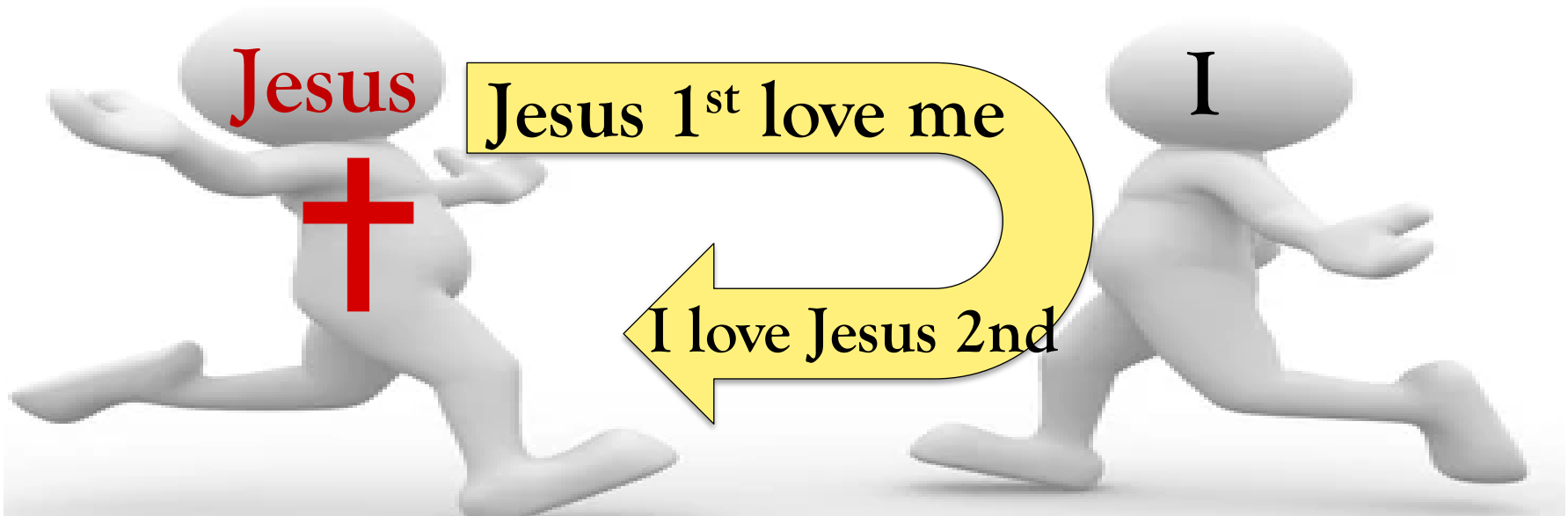
must progress



Revelation 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm -neither **hot nor cold**-I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

How to grow in perfection in Christ?

V12 But **I press on** to possess that perfection for which **Christ Jesus first** possessed me



It is a **2-way love relationship!**

John 14:15 “If you love me,
obey my commandments

Our love for Christ is proven by our
obedience which leads to transformation

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all,
...are being transformed into his
image with ever-increasing glory

Perfection
in Christ



Christianity is not only about transportation to heaven but transformation on earth

Just like the transformation (metamorphosis) ugly caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly

nature & appearance



Fruit of the Spirit authenticates our transformation & perfection in Christ

Sharp focus is needed in perfection

Marathon runner



Philippians 3:13-14

I focus on this one thing:

- 1 **Forgetting the past** and
- 2 **looking forward** to what lies ahead
- 3 **I press on** to reach the end of the race

1 **Past**

*Forget
the past*



2 **Future**

*Look
forward*

3 **Present**

*Press on
to the end*

Past

Forget the past

Future

Look forward

Present

Press on/don't quit

Forget the past hurts
& unforgiveness which
can act like **poison in
our soul** hindering our
perfection in Christ



Past hurts
unforgiveness

Isaiah 43:18-19 “Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!

Genesis 19:26 But **Lot's wife looked back,**
and she became a **pillar of salt.**



Don't look back as you're not going that way

Past

Forget the past

Future

Look forward

Present

Press on/don't quit

When chasing Christ, we must keep
looking forward as the heavenly prize is **forward**

Like a Horse with blinkers

-eyes can only look forward

-avoid distractions, detractions

Hebrews 12:2a

fixing our eyes on Jesus,

the **pioneer** and

perfecter of faith



Past

Forget the past

Future

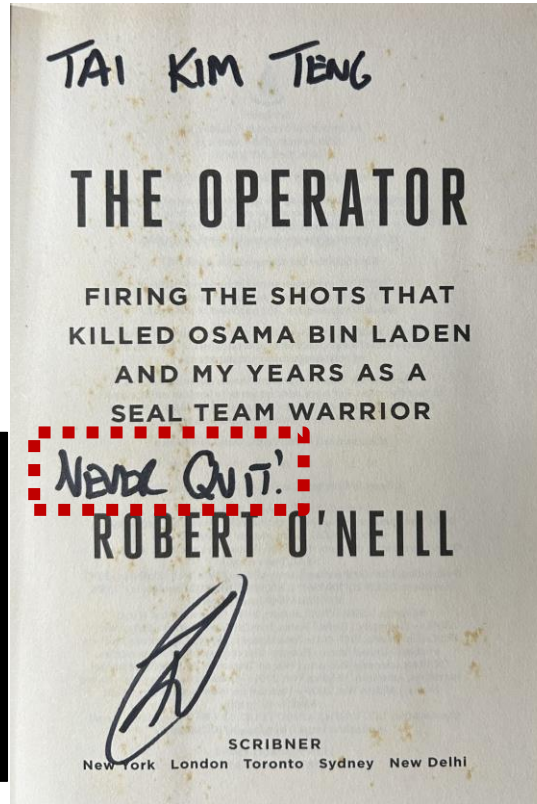
Look forward

Present

Press on/don't quit

Don't
Quit

Failure is a
stepping stone
to SUCCESS



Warning: Many not chasing Christ

Chasing life
here on earth



Enemies of
Christ
*“shameful
things”*

DESTRUCTION

Philippians 3:18-19 there are **many** whose conduct shows they are really **enemies of the cross** of Christ. They are headed for **destruction**. Their god is their appetite, they brag about **shameful things**, and they think only about this **life here on earth**.

Chasing after Christ

3rd part of our race chasing after Christ

Start race

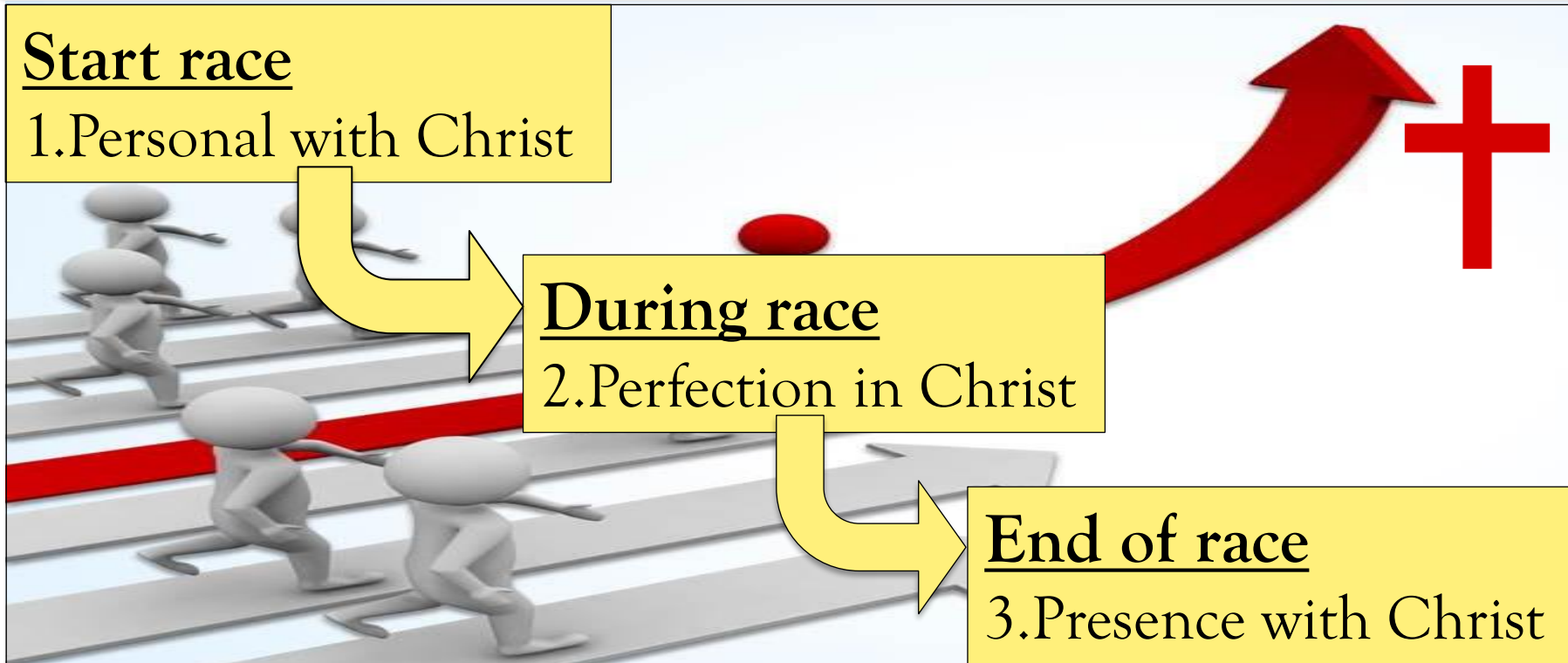
1. Personal with Christ

During race

2. Perfection in Christ

End of race

3. Presence with Christ



3. Present with Christ

Philippians 3:20-21 But we are **citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives**. And we are **eagerly waiting** for him

Hebrews 11:13c **strangers** and **pilgrims** on the earth

Our home is in Heaven
Heaven is waiting for us
Jesus Christ is waiting

Don't fall in love with earth

Passport of
Heaven



Citizen of Heaven

"My home is in Heaven.
I'm just traveling through this world."

Billy Graham (1918-2018)

Finish well

1945

Heavenly minded with earthly good

In Heaven, where Christ lives

Philippians 3:21 He will take our **weak mortal bodies** and **change** them into **glorious bodies** like his own

Heavenly
glorious resurrected bodies



Earthly
mortal bodies

Conclusion

On earth, only worthwhile thing is Chasing after Christ

Get

1. Personal with Christ

Grow

2. Perfection in Christ

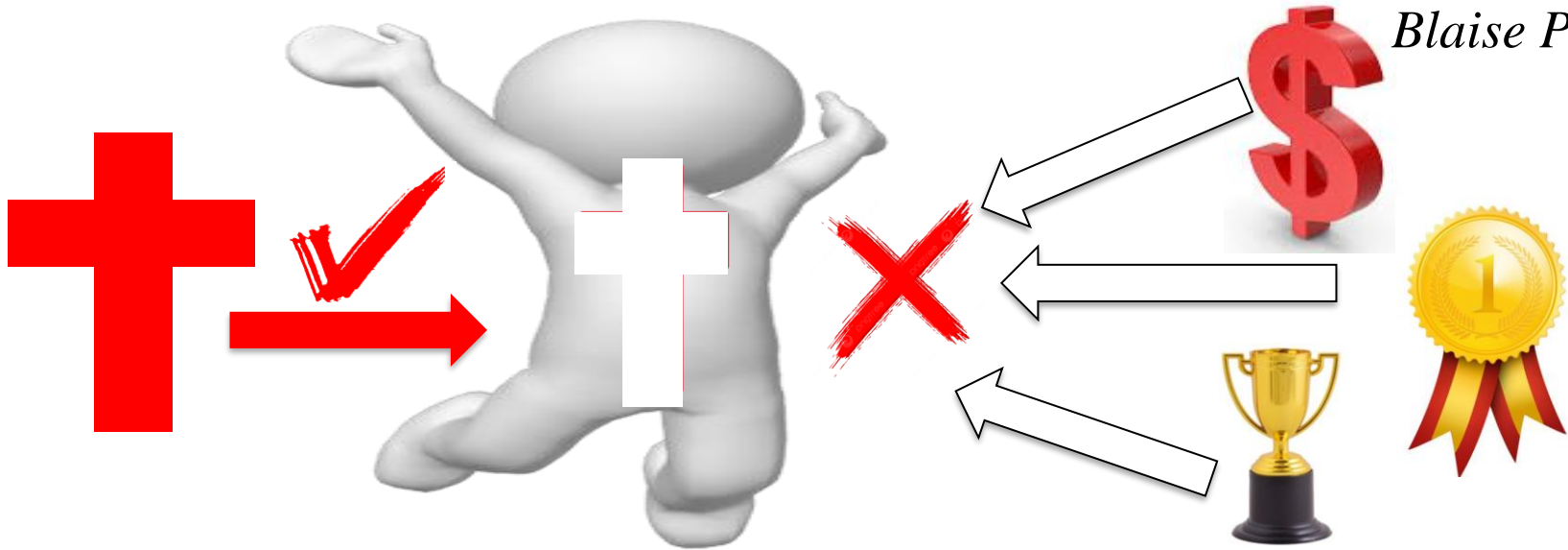
Glorified

3. Presence with Christ



“There is a **God-shaped vacuum** in the heart of everyone which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by **Jesus Christ.**”

Blaise Pascal



Decision: As for me, I will Chase Christ only