

GSM

The book of Philippians

Philippians 3:11-16

I. Philippians 3:11

- A. **If by any means**-Lit. *If somehow*- Paul so desired this that He was willing to do anything Christ revealed to Him no matter what the cost.
- B. **Attain to**- Gr. **katantao**- *to arrive at a place*
- C. **Resurrection of the dead**- Gr. **ek Anastasis**- lit. *out resurrection*
 - 1. Paul is not saying he is trying to attain to the resurrection. If you are saved you do not have to strive toward this. If you are saved at the rapture you will be resurrected!
 - 2. The regular word for resurrection is the word Gr. word **anastasis**- *to stand up again*. The Gr. word exanastasis is the out resurrection. This word means to have the resurrection life on the inside of you fully displayed on the outside of you. We as Christians have the resurrection life of Christ in our spirit. However, we need to have a manifestation of the resurrection life of Christ manifest in our body and life!
 - a. **Romans 8:10-13**- in context the spirit will quicken our mortal bodies while we are living to see sin broken in our lives and the holiness of God revealed!
 - b. **2 Cor. 4:10-11**- We can experience the death of Christ working in our body that is putting to death the deeds of the body and we can experience the life of Jesus in our body to manifest the character and nature of Christ in our body!

II. Philippians 3:12

- A. **Not that I already attained**- This proves Paul was not talking about the general resurrection or rapture.
- B. **or am I already perfected**- This is speaking of his natural life. Christ was not perfectly living through Paul.
 - 1. We are perfected in our spirit however- **Hebrews 10:14**
 - 2. The more we draw from this perfection of Christ on the inside of us, the more we will move toward the place of perfection in our natural lives.
 - 3. This comes from the knowledge of Christ and then knowing Christ.
- C. **but I press on**- Gr. **dioko**- *to pursue hotly after*. This word most often is translated *to persecute*.

1. Paul used this word when he described himself before he was saved. He said he persecuted the church.
2. With the same zeal he used to pursue and hunt Christians, he now pursued and hunted Christ! Knowing Christ and His grace will produce zeal to seek Him!

D. **That I might apprehend-** Gr. **katalambano-** *to grab tightly onto*

E. **Christ also apprehended me**

1. This speaks of the amazing grace of God. God pursued you first and grabbed hold of you tightly. Now that He has a tight hold on you, he desires now that you pursue Him and get a tight hold on Him!
2. Your salvation is complete and permanent. With this kind of security, you can now pursue Christ with a love inspired abandon so that you can experience all that He is.

III. Philippians 3:13

A. **Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended**

1. **count myself-** Gr. **logizomai-** *to take into account, consider*
2. Paul knew he had not arrived yet. Right when we think we have arrived God will reveal to us very clearly that we have not!
 - a. Paul got this revelation with his mistake in going to Jerusalem. This was what got him in the prison cell he was writing from!

B. **but this one thing I do**

1. It is not complicated to progress in the Christian life! There is only one thing necessary!
2. Paul only focused on one thing to progress in the Christian life. We need to learn that one thing as well!

C. **forgetting those things that are behind**

1. This is one thing that Paul did to progress in the Christian life. He made the decision forget those things that are behind Him.
2. This does not refer to the good things he had done as a Christian. This is speaking of the old person he used to be before he got saved. He determined to forget the old man and everything that pertained to him! He forgot who he used to be before He was saved. He forgot His old identity. He forgot all the things he used to count upon in His life.
 - a. **2 Cor. 5:17-** We are new creations. All old things have passed away...died with Christ, all things are made new!

3. Modern religion is teaching that godliness will take place when we examine our past life and hurtful experiences and get healing. This is like digging up a grave and re-examining the remains. Leave your old man and His remains buried!
- D. **I reach forward to what is ahead-** lit. Gr. *what is in front of Him- before His eyes*
1. **The key to forgetting who you used to be is to keep what the Word says about your new identity ever before your eyes! We forget by the principle of replacement!**
 3. Try to not think of a pink elephant. It is real hard! However, if you replace it, with something else you automatically forget what was in your mind before. We replace the memory of who we used to be by thinking on and speaking about who we are now in Christ and what we have. This is called renewing the mind. **Romans 12:2**

IV. Philippians 3:14

- A. **I press towards-** Gr. **dioko-** *hotly pursue*
- B. mark- Gr. **skopos-** *a goal that is in view.* This was the finish line of a race that was in sight which inspired you to run harder.
 1. The Greek games were often played in Ephesus. Paul was there for three years and no doubt had a chance to view these games.
- C. **for the prize-** Gr. **brabeion-** This came from the word Brabeus which was the word for a judge or umpire. This judge of the games sat upon a high seat over the grandstands to view the games. The brabeion was the prize he gave to the victor.
 1. This reward is not salvation. Salvation is a gift from God and not a reward. At the judgment seat of Christ we will not be judged, but our works will. Our good works and our faithfulness to running our race God gave us will be richly rewarded.
 2. **2 Timothy 4:7-8-** Paul finished His race- You win your race when you finish it. There is no one else running on your race course. This means you are in the lead! If you have fallen down, get up! You are in the lead! **You win your race by finishing it!** Paul said he finished his race and was going to receive a victor's crown.
- D. **High calling-** Lit. **upward call-** When someone won their competition they were called up to the judge's stand to receive his reward. We are all as victors have a call to come up to where God and Christ are seated and receive our reward from Him.

V. Philippians 3:15

- A. **Let us therefore as are perfect-** There were some in Philippi that boasted they had arrived at perfection in their natural lives. Paul taught them their position in Christ was perfect [**Hebrews 10:14**] but they took that to mean that they had arrived perfection in their natural lives which led to pride and factions
- B. **Have this mind-** pres. tense. – lit. *thinking*. What are we to be thinking? That we have not arrived in our Christian walk and we are to keep forgetting what is behind by pressing towards what is in front of our eyes.
- C. **If you are otherwise minded-** which some in Philippi were. Some thought they had a corner on the Christian life
- D. God will reveal this to you- You do not want this to happen!
 - 1. **James 4:6-** God resists the proud and humbles them. God wants us to humble ourselves, but if not, He is able to humble us. Just ask Nebuchadnezzar!

VI. Philippians 3:16

- A. **Have attained-** lit. *where we have arrived at*.
 - 1. The only principle that causes us to advance in the Christian life and this principle is the grace of God.
 - 2. This chapter is dealing with legalism. Paul is warning these saints to continue in the grace of God and not to change principles or their standard.
- B. **Let us walk by the same rule-** Gr. **kanon-** *standard-* When we got saved it was by the standard of the grace of God. We now are to continue to walk by the same standard- the grace of God- **Col. 2:6**
- C. **Same mind-** We are to have the same thinking which is grace thinking.