

# YEAR END MESSAGE 2013

BEING PREPARED FOR WHATEVER COMES OUR WAY

## PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JH358 DECEMBER 29, 2013

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### WHAT WILL YOU DO ?

*BEING PREPARED FOR WHATEVER COMES OUR WAY*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

*Hope, Perseverance, Expectation, Maturity, Discipleship*

Introduction to the Text;

**Philippians 3:13-14**

As we come to this years end and as we look to the next,  
What will the new year be like for you, for us ?

#### Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind** and **reaching forward to those things which are ahead**, **14** I **press toward the goal for the prize** of the **upward call of God in Christ Jesus**.

### We've all seen the commercials on TV.

From reverse mortgages to buying gold and silver, they're warning us of economic upheaval for 2014  
"There's a Storm Coming" to "Uncertain Times are Ahead"

But The Bible Warns of Challenging Times Too.

#### 1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

#### 2 Tim. 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: **2** For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **3** unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, **4** traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5** having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

no real demarcation line

### Have you noticed that everything tends to wear out?

*And have you noticed that even a year tends to wear out?*

There is something about putting an old, used up, wore out year behind us  
as we look ahead to the hope of a better year, a new year.

Yet – There is no real demarcation line from one year to the next.  
There is no visible line at the equator. I've flown right over the north pole – I didn't see a dot labeled north and didn't see no pole.

These points are marked on a map but you could easily pass by them or over them and not even know it...

## WHAT WILL YOU DO

1.) With what's in the past

v. 13a

### WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH WHAT'S IN THE PAST?

1a.) It's time to learn the lesson

#### Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind...**

### What is this "forgetting" that Paul is speaking of ?

**Situations and Events are things sealed in our memory.** There's no changing that. It's impossible for us to "forget" those things that this verse is speaking about – it's not that kind of forgetting.

**forgetting** ἐπιλανθάνομαι *epilanthanomai*, *ep-ee-lan-than'-om-ahee*; to loosen, to untie, to let go out of mind. to pass by or to willfully neglect a location or patch within a field. ( an intended, energetic, forgetting )

**Seasons** come and go. **Weather** comes and goes. **Dates** come and go. **Days** pass, **months** pass, and **years** pass...

### How we handle or manage - this past year matters.

All of what's happened in our lives is "redeemable" by Jesus.

Bitterness, Resentment, Gossip, Hatred, Pride are all ghosts from our past.

#### Matthew 18:3

"I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven.

How we look at the past "depends" on OUR context.

### WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH WHAT'S IN THE PAST?

1b.) It's time to believe in God

"But Jack - I believe in God"  
but is that really true, as God defines belief ?

To believe that God exists is not what He's desiring of you.  
He's looking for a God Consciousness / God Mindfulness.

**James 2:18-20**

But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works. "Show me your faith without your works, (impossible) and I will show you my faith by my works (possible). 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?"

Isn't it an awesome thing to consider the fact that Jesus  
Called His disciples to "Come and Follow Him"

"Come" = meaning, we're leaving this place and we're heading toward another place. And His word "Follow" = means that we're not just going to another location, we're going to keep on going to other locations while none of them will be the destination.

Can you see in your life, evidence of God at Work in you?

**1 John 2:3-5**

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

**WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH WHAT'S IN THE PAST?**

**1c.) It's time to conquer what was**

**Philippians 3:13**

*forgetting those things which are behind...*

*I can think of many people recorded in the Bible that are eternally grateful for "Forgetting those things which are behind"*

*The Woman Caught in The Act of Adultery (John 8)*

*stop and take inventory of things that have passed ?*

**(#1)**

We have a tendency to **rose-up the past** when we are going thru a difficult time in the here and now.

**(#2)**

we have a tendency to **make the past more powerful** than what's happening today.

**(#3)**

we tend to make **the past a frequent lay-over** whenever we feel like we need to be justified or defended or in the right.

**Gal.2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**WHAT WILL YOU DO**

**2.) With what's happening now**

**v. 13b**

**WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?**

## 2a.) There are real-time consequences

Philippians 3:13b  
and **reaching forward to those things which are ahead**

We live in a spiritual world where there are real demonic forces who are out to destroy the knowledge of Christ that resides in us.

Gal. 6:7-8

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

## What does this “reaching forward” look like?

**Reaching** ἐπεκτείνωμαι epekteinomai, ep-ek-ti'-nom-ahay; to stretch out the arms toward. to pull ones self to the point of tension. to reach ahead of yourself with all effort.

Prv. 4:20

My son, give attention to my words; **Incline** (to stretch out the arms toward. to pull ones self to the point of tension. to reach ahead of yourself with all effort.) your ear to my sayings.

**Right Now – Today, in all that is going on around me,  
I'm to be reaching forward – what are we doing when we're reaching forward? - - we are actually  
pulling ourselves in the direction of a desired target, a haven.**

Luke 6:47-49

I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. **48** It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. **49** But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

**When we drag what is of our past into our present,  
We lace every decision and every action with a poison.**

Ps. 37:3-5

Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established. **4** Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. **5** Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

**WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?**

## 2b.) There are real-time rewards

### Gob Blesses Obedience – Period

Eph. 4:22 NLT

**throw off** your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. **23** Instead, **let** the Holy Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.

**2 Corinthians 10:4**

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, **who will not allow you** to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also **make the way of escape**, that you may be **able to bear it**.

**WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?**

**2c.) There are real-time opportunities**

***None of God's Children are Victims.***

*Whatever is going on with you and I is a God ordained opportunity for #1 me to learn a deeper truth. #2 for those watching me, to learn about God*

**James 1:2-4**

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Pastor Saeed Abedini may be imprisoned in Iran,  
But God isn't – there are things happening there.

**WHAT WILL YOU DO**

**3.) With what's about to come v. 14**

**Philippians 3:13-14**

**I press toward the goal for the prize** of the **upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

**WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH WHAT'S ABOUT TO COME?**

**3a.) Examine your faith**

**Biblical Doctrine is Eternally Important for You.**  
**Emotional Doctrine is Eternally Destructive to You.**

**Examine Your faith**

*because there is a new, manmade version of Christianity out there and its so convenient.*

**2 Cor. 13:5**

**Examine yourselves** (not others) as to whether **you** are in the faith.  
**Test yourselves** (not someone else). Do you not **know yourselves**, (not another) that Jesus Christ is in you? - - unless indeed you are disqualified.

**Examine** πειράζω peirazo, pi-rad'-zo; to endeavor to scrutinize, acid wash or acid dip.

**Test** δοκιμάζω dokimazo, dok-im-ad'-zo; to approve of or prove, discern, try or expose (meaning - expose yourself to His will, bow to His Lordship)

**know** ἐπιγινώσκω epiginosko, ep-ig-in-ocē'-ko; to know or grade your progress. to see the mark. to be able to recognize faith ( **faith in action** )

### Here's a Self Exam:

**Gal. 5:19-21**

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **21** envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice *(live for)* such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

### Here's a Self Exam:

**Eph. 5:3-6**

But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; **4** neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. **5** For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **6** Let no one deceive you with empty words,

### Here's a Self Exam:

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. *(here's the good news)* **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

**Jesus gave you and I a grave warning about our faith being real or not.**

**Luke 8:13**

But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, **who believe for a while** and in time of temptation fall away.

You and I are either one year closer to becoming **more like Jesus**  
or  
You and I are one year closer to going **back to this World.**

### WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH WHAT'S ABOUT TO COME?

**3b.) Test your actions**

**Ephesus**

**Rev. 2:4-5**

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. **5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place - - unless you repent.

### WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH WHAT'S ABOUT TO COME?

### 3c.) Know if you're for real

**Matt. 7:19-23**

Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** Therefore by their fruits you will know them. **21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22** Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" **23** And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

***Why do you hear the Lord over and over again say***

***"be of good courage for I have overcome the world", or "In this world you will have tribulation" or do not fear them who can kill your body, rather fear God who alone has the power to destroy your soul and your body.***

**Jer.12:5**

"If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, In which you trusted, they wearied you, Then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?"

**>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<<**

***Come Forward for Prayer***

*End of Study*

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