

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3:12-14

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“ UNTIL WE CROSS THE FINISH LINE ” – PART 3

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Salvation, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

Introduction to the Text:

Philippians 3:12-14

What comes to mind when you hear the word **Dissatisfaction**? If you thought frustration, discontent, and disappointment – you would be correct.

But what if I were to tell you that is a great part of the Christian life – I know that’s not a great selling point on the surface but it’s a powerful truth and a wonderful testimony about the fact that God has placed eternity in our hearts and that we now long for a new world/home with Christ in heaven, forever!

Hebrews 11:9-10

9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise 10 for **he waited** for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Philippians 3:10

That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, **being** conformed to His death,

In Our Previous Studies Here in Philippians Chapter 3

We saw that there’s the use of the very powerful Greek word **teleios**, which means to become mature or fully developed. The word has several meanings such as, the difference between a man who is fully developed verses a youth. The word also means to

successfully transfer information from one location to another (where we get the word telemetry from) Unfortunately the word is most often translated in the English as "perfect" or "complete" which has led some to conclude that they can become sinless here in this world. – *O how we wish!*

The good news is – **Christ** has become **our Teleios**,
Our Communicated Perfection!

Matthew 5:48

Therefore you shall be perfect, **just as your** Father in heaven **is** perfect.

How can this be true for us who are imperfect?

1 Peter 1:15-16

But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

"Come near to the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the heat of their desire after God. They mourned for Him, they prayed and wrestled and sought for Him day and night, in season and out, and when they had found Him - the finding was all the sweeter for the long seeking. Moses used the fact that he knew God, as an argument for knowing Him better. *"Now, therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight";* and from there he rose to make the daring request, "I beseech thee, show me thy glory." God was frankly pleased by this display of ardor, and the next day called Moses into the mount, and there in solemn procession made all His glory pass before him."

- A. W. Tozer

Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already attained, or am already **perfected**; but I **press on**, that I may **lay hold** of **that** for **which** Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 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.

Paul was the master illustrator when it came to presenting relevant Biblical truth. There are four prominent illustrations that Paul used during his ministry career. **One (#1)** was that of the military, "Put on the whole armor of God". The **second (#2)** was that of the architect, "You are the temple of the living God." The **third (#3)** was that of agriculture, "Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap." And the **fourth (#4)** was that of athletics, "Run in such a way as to win the prize."

Until We Cross The Finish Line

1.) He has revealed your purpose: vs. 12

1a.) And it's beyond your comprehension: vs. 12a

12a Not that I have already **attained**, or am already **perfected**;

1b.) And it's greater than your ability: vs. 12b

12b but I **press** on...



press grk: dee-o'-ko;

an aggressive pursuit of, to lean or forward into, to be locked on to (that which possesses you). regarding the divine relations with God the picture is one with Him nudging us forward and we ourselves willfully leaning forward - toward the finish line.

Until We Cross The Finish Line He Has Revealed Your Purpose

1c.) And it's literally the reason why He did: vs. 12

12 that I may lay hold **of that** for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

The Old King James Bible has it right: "To **apprehend**"



lay hold katalambano, kat-al-am-ban'-o;

to take **eagerly**, to **seize** hold of, to make it or to **take** it without hesitation.

In a modern day conversation it would sound like this:

"Because Jesus Christ has arrested me, I am going to make sure that I arrest Him and everything that He has for me."

This is not a pursuit of salvation issue – this is a maturity issue.

1 John 4:19

We love Him **because** He first loved us.

His love for you prompted you, caused you, and provoked you to consider Him.

But what does Paul mean here when he says

"That I may lay hold of THAT" - - What is "That"?

The language here suggests that Paul is looking back to

"His Damascus Road Experience or better, his Arrest"

The first step in His pursuit experience was – **Not his salvation, not even the hope of Heaven**, but for him **to know** and **to do** God's will.

Acts 9:1-6

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **3** As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. **4** Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, **"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"** **5** And he said, **"Who are You, Lord?"** Then the Lord said, **"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."** **6** So he, trembling and astonished, said, **"Lord, what do You want me to do?"**

"Lord, what would you have me to do"

Professor and Pastor Kent Hughes states:

"There is a divine sense of violence in the Apostle's request, **"that I may lay hold of that** for which Christ Jesus **has also laid** hold of me." *I will not be denied the **person** and **presence** of Jesus Christ nor His **plan** for my life"*.

An Often Avoided Verse by Western Bible Teachers is

Matthew 11:12

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

Mark 2:1-5

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. 2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And **He preached the word to them.** 3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, **they uncovered the roof where Jesus was.** So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. (a perfect example of the violent taking it by force) 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, **“Son, your sins are forgiven you.”**

...that I may lay hold **of that** (~~not salvation, not peace, not safety, not heaven, not money, not health, not what I can get from God~~) **for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.**

a.) Why did He rescue you out of this world and save you for eternity?

He has ordained you to be His **Teleios to the world.**

b.) And why all this “Life” in the meantime? Why us, here, and now?

John 17:9-11, 15-18, 23

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. **10** And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. **11** Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are... **15** I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. **16** They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. **18** As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world... **23** I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Our lives are directed lives – being lived out according to God’s plan.

Romans 8:27

Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints **according to the will** of God.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called **according to His purpose**.

Romans 8:29

For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 8:30

Moreover whom He **predestined, these He also called**; whom He called, **these He also justified**; and whom He justified, **these He also glorified**.

Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us**, who can be against us?

Jeremiah 1:4-5

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: **5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."**

John 10:27-29

My sheep hear My voice, and **I know them**, and they follow Me. 28 And **I give them** eternal life, and they shall never perish; **neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand**. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to **snatch them out of My Father's hand**.

John 6:3

All that **the Father gives Me** will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me **I will by no means cast out**.

Jude 1:24

Now to **Him who is able to keep you** from stumbling, And to **present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Here's a good word for us today:

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine (to walk around) yourselves as to whether you are in the faith.
Test (to read, to conclude) yourselves.

Unless our eyes are fixed on Jesus Christ and His perfection,

We will either examine ourselves **too harshly** or we will be **too lenient** –

So what's the answer for this? - - Press(ing) on toward Jesus.

Regarding our Christian life, it's good to remember that *“If you're running in a race, never compare your progress against those who are seated in the grandstands.”*

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: **we implore you** on Christ's behalf, be **reconciled** to God. **21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that **we might become** (the great exchange) the righteousness of God in Him.

katallasso, *kat-al-las'-so* A mutual exchange of currency.

You could not do business in the Roman Empire until you (exchanged your country's currency to that of Rome's). It was a **“value to value”** exchange = meaning, whatever the magnitude of your sins' debt was – the equal amount of Christ's blood was given in exchange.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have **become new** (slate wiped clean or fresh, hot wax). **18** Now all things are of God, who has **reconciled** us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has **given us** the ministry of **reconciliation**, **19** that is, that God was **in Christ reconciling** the world to Himself, not imputing (no longer transmitting-communicating) their trespasses to them, and has **committed to us the word of reconciliation**.

Have you ever **made up** with a friend or spouse?

Have you ever **made up** with your God?

It's Time to Make Your Exchange Today

COME TO JESUS TODAY

The **Cross**, The **Christ**, The **Call**

End of Study

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