

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3:12-16

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“ UNTIL WE CROSS THE FINISH LINE ” – PART 4

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 3:12-16**

Philippians 3:(12)-16

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

Until We Cross The Finish Line

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

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

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

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

And We Ended Last Week with this Truly Awesome Fact

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**.

2 Corinthians 5:21

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.

Until We Cross The Finish Line

2.) **He has determined your course** vs. 13

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. :15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the **degree** that we have already attained, let us **walk** by **the same rule**, let us be of **the same mind**.

Until We Cross The Finish Line

2.) **He has determined your course** vs. 13

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, (constantly, non-stop) **forgetting** those things which are behind and **reaching** forward to those things which are **ahead**

Look to the men and women of the Bible and you will see lives and issues and events that relate to all of us.

**But the single most powerful message in the record was/is;
Did they have a heart for God ?**

**And the Church at Philippi was no Different,
Because God was at work among them.**

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you** both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

This (pre) Determined Course of Yours has Been Specially Designed by the Lord Himself for you to live.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His **workmanship, created** in Christ Jesus for **good works,** which God **prepared beforehand** that we should **walk in them.**

Until We Cross The Finish Line

He Has Pre-Determined Your Victory.

2a.) It requires watchfulness

vs. 13a

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

This; **“To have apprehended”**

Means that there is a reasoned-purpose for God having awakened your spirit.

Our Natural-Supernatural Response to This is Watchfulness

forgetting grk: **ejpilanqa;nomai** epilanthanomai.

to untie or release out of mind. to stop propping up or maintaining or tending to. to willfully neglect or to leave alone.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

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,

forgetting those things which are behind.

(-) = It's not only forgetting our “Before Christ Sins”, but it also means **(+) =** forgetting our After Christ Victories” as well. **(-) =** Even our actions this morning that misrepresented Christ to our friends or husband or wife or kids. But **(+) =** our

successes for Christ – it's forgetting previous victories and defeats since becoming a Christian way-back-when and being a Christian today.

Getting the Victory On The Battlefield of Your Mind

“This **“one thing”** is the understanding that the path to victory is (#1) found in forgetting the things that are in the past and (#2) seeking to lay hold of Jesus Christ daily while (#3) always keeping the goal in view.”

The Crossing Factor

because of the words used here that Paul, a Jew, employed in this verses (The Holy Spirit) many scholars have concluded that what is in the mind of the apostle is the Red Sea event when Moses and the Children of Israel arrived at what is near **Sharm el-Sheikh Egypt** today.

Exodus 14:13-15

And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. **14** The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” **:15** And the LORD said to Moses, **“Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.**

Until We Cross The Finish Line

He Has Pre-Determined Your Victory.

2b.) It requires **commitment**

vs. 13b

and **reaching** forward to those things which are **ahead**

and **reaching** forward to those things which are **ahead**,

reaching rgk: **eipektei÷nomai** epekteinomai, ep-ek-ti'-nom-ahee;
to stretch out towards, to strain for, to throw yourself forward. A
long-time, full-time, life-long reaching

Reaching with every bit of our being – beginning with our thoughts.
The power is available to every Christian to think
the most powerful thoughts that a man can think.

Unlike the unbeliever – the **Christian is no longer controlled** by the past. The Believer now is focused on the future finish line – Jesus !

The Christian is to Always be “**Forward-Looking**”
This forward looking should **guide the present** and **overshadow our past.**

**I cannot enjoy the benefits of Jesus and be a victim
at the same time.**

We do not have the power to change our past, but with Christ, we have full access to change the meaning of our past. We can change the effects of our past by placing our history into His hands.

Hebrews 10:17

then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

It’s not that God has the ability to forget – He sees our past through the finished work of Christ at the Cross.

Colossians 3:3b

For you died, and your life is **hidden WITH Christ IN God.**

Stop Looking Back. Keep Looking To Christ

A friend of mine let me drive his very-high-end sports car.

and if you’ve never driven a high performance car – let me tell you this, never look over your shoulder before you change lanes – why? Because just turning your head will cause you to change more lanes than you want to.

I Believe in Brain Washing, Mind Control and Indoctrination.

Romans 12:2a

And do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed**
(how) by the **renewing of your mind,**

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

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,

Internet Pop Up's are Big Business

Advertisements from universities to underwear.

What about the kind of music we listen to or the things we allow into our minds?

Colossians 3:1-4

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **2 Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth. **3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is our life appears (the appearing of Christ for His people), then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Until We Cross The Finish Line

He Has Pre-Determined Your Victory.

2c.) It requires **vision**

vs. 13c

those things which are **ahead**

but what are those things?

I have no idea what those things are that are ahead,

But I am absolutely certain that they are **(1)** perfect for me, **(2)** that He is preparing them, and **(3)** that whatever it is – it is an opportunity for me to be faithful for His name sake.

Revelation 3:8a

Behold, I have set before you an open door,

Psalms 139:17-18

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! **18** If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

Until We Cross The Finish Line

3.) **He has guaranteed your outcome**

vs. 14-16

I **press** toward the **goal** for the **prize**

of the **upward** call of God in Christ Jesus.

Press grk. dioko, dee-o'-ko;

a prolonged pursuit. an ongoing, long-term run toward the goal. To run the distance under hostile fire or under dangerous condition.

A long-time, full-time, life-long reaching toward – keeping Jesus in sight.

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us,

The word means = “while we are waiting – be cheerful, constant, patient and enduring.

Until We Cross The Finish Line
He Has Guaranteed The Outcome.

3a.) So we are to be industrious

vs. 14

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

Goal grk: 4649. skopos, skop-os'

Where we get the English word “skeptic” found only once here in the N.T. meaning to (1) peer out and beyond to the finish line. (2) the point of terminus. (3) to look out toward the end. (4) to spy out, to see through to what is concealed. (5) To be a watcher, sentry or scout being one who is looking for the goal, the prize, the end.

Upward Call grk: ano, an'-o

To be called up or summoned upward. To fill up a vessel to the brim. higher up or to be taken or to go up higher.

According to John Chrysostom 371 a.d.

This was the protocol of the Athenian Olympic Games held in the ancient Roman Empire of Paul' s day.

The winner was not crowned on the field or on the track but was summoned by an upward call by the Emperors escort. Once the winner arrived above the stadium, he was then crowned by the Emperor himself surrounded by honored guests and dignitaries.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have **fought the good fight**, I have **finished the race**, I have **kept the faith**. **8** Finally, there is laid up for me **the crown** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that **Day**, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Don't Worry Christian – You'll Make it, Here's Why...

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

(breaking the seal was punishable by death)

Sealed grk: sphragizo, sfrag-id'-zo;

- (1) to stamp with or by a signet either a private or royal mark of authorized ownership.
- (2) to mark out for security and from danger or exposure.
- (3) A mark or sign of preservation.
- (4) to be spoken for, owned.
- (5) to wait with confidence because possession. (impossible to break or to dissolve – being in the grip of God).

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, **22** who also has **sealed** us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

(breaking the seal was punishable by death)

Matthew 27:66

So they went and made the tomb secure, **sealing** the stone and setting the guard.

(breaking the seal was punishable by death)

Until We Cross The Finish Line
He Has Guaranteed The Outcome.

3b.) So we are to be intelligent

vs. 15

Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this **mind**;
and if in anything you **think** otherwise, God will **reveal** even this to you

“intelligent” or “intelligence” is “the disciple of thinking correctly.” – *church are you sitting down for this bit of Political Incorrectness?* - - it means that some thoughts are good thoughts and some thoughts are bad thoughts. To be intelligent is to reject the bad and cling to the good.

we can do this because we have a good thought

because our new thoughts are fixed on the good ending of our lives in Christ.

Philippians 4:8-9 NLT

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. **9** Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me - everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

We have set Christ as our hope and our end.

Hebrews 12:1-2a

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2a** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,

Until We Cross The Finish Line
He Has Guaranteed The Outcome.

3c.) So we can now be intentional

vs. 16

Nevertheless, to the **degree** that we have already attained, (at this moment of our maturity)

let us **walk** by **the same rule**, let us be of **the same mind**.

Nevertheless, to the **degree** that we have already attained

If you're a **spiritual babe** – attain that. Moving on, if you're a **spiritual toddler** - attain that. Moving on, if you're a **spiritual teen** - attain that. Moving on, if you're a **spiritual adult** attain that.

Moving on, if you're a **spiritual veteran** attain that.

