

Philippians

Chapter 3:12-21

- I. **Philippians 3:12** ¹²Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.
- a. Already (Previously)
- i. **Attained**
 - ii. **Perfect**
 1. **Perfect- Greek word *teleioo* from G5046; to complete, i.e. (literally) accomplish, or (figuratively) consummate (in character):—consecrate, finish, fulfil, make) perfect.**
 - a. **That which is without flaw or error**
- b. Follow After (Presently)
- i. **Apprehended**
 1. **Apprehended- Greek word *katalambano* - Strongs Con. from G2596 and G2983; to take eagerly, i.e. seize, possess, etc. (literally or figuratively):—apprehend, attain, come upon, comprehend, find, obtain, perceive, (over-)take.**
 2. **Translated as “take” (3 times), “apprehend” (3 times), “comprehend” (2 times), “perceive” (2 times), come upon, attain, find, overtake, obtain.**
 3. Only translated “apprehend” or “apprehended” in Philippians 3:13-14. Typically, these translated words were literal, but these two verses give us the “figurative sense”.
 - ii. **Apprehended of Christ Jesus**
 1. **Acts 9 Paul’s call**

II. **Philippians 3:13-14** ¹³Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

a. Counting not myself to have apprehended

i. **Counting**

b. One thing I do

i. Imagine receiving a letter from Paul and he begins to say the “one thing I do”.

c. Forgetting things behind

i. **The list in Philippians 3:5-6**

1. **II Corinthians 11:23-30** ²³Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. ²⁴Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. ²⁵Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶*In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; ²⁷*In* weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. ²⁸Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? ³⁰If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

2. **Galatians 2:1** ¹Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with *me* also.
3. **Philippians 4:15-16** ¹⁵Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. ¹⁶For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.
4. **Ephesians 2:11-12** ¹¹Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹²That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:
5. **II Peter 1:9** ⁹But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

ii. **Sins**

1. **Colossians 1:14** ¹⁴In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:
2. **Colossians 2:13** ¹³And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
3. **Ephesians 1:7** ⁷In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
4. **Ephesians 4:32** ³²And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
5. **Romans 3:25** ²⁵Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare

his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

- d. Reaching forth to those things before
 - i. **See the relationship between the “mind” in forgetting and “behavior” in reaching forth.**
 - ii. **Forgetting is for things behind and reaching forth is for things before.**
- e. Pressing toward the mark for the prize
 - i. **I Corinthians 9:24** ²⁴Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
- f. High calling of God in Christ Jesus
 - i. **The object in front of us has to be bigger than the obstacle behind us.**

III. **Philippians 3:15-17** ¹⁵Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. ¹⁶Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. ¹⁷Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

- a. “Us”
 - i. **Body of Christ**
 - ii. **Minded**
 - 1. **“thus” unified**
 - a. **Perfect-** Greek word *teleios* from G5056; complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neuter (as noun, with G3588) completeness:—of full age, man, perfect.
 - b. **Romans 12:2** ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

c. **Ephesians 4:23** ²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

2. **“otherwise” divided**

b. God shall reveal

c. Call to unity

i. **Philippians 2:1-2** ¹If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, ²Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

1. **Walk by the same rule “Behavior”**

2. **Mind the same thing “Thinking”**

d. “Brethren”

i. **Body of Christ again**

e. Followers

i. **Paul**

1. **I Corinthians 4:16** ¹⁶Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

2. **I Corinthians 11:1** ¹Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.

3. **I Timothy 1:15-16** ¹⁵This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. ¹⁶Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

4. **Ephesians 5:1-2** ¹Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; ²And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

5. **I Thessalonians 1:5-7** ⁵For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye

know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. ⁶And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: ⁷So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

ii. **Other believers**

IV. **Philippians 3:18-19** ¹⁸(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

a. Enemies of the cross

i. **End is destruction**

ii. **God is their belly**

1. **I Corinthians 15:32** ³²If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

iii. **Glory is their shame**

1. **Ephesians 5:12** ¹²For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

2. **Galatians 6:14** ¹⁴But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

a. **See Romans 1:21-32**

iv. **Mind earthly things**

1. **Unlike us in Colossians 3:1-2...see below**

V. **Philippians 3:20-21** ²⁰For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

a. “Our”

- i. “Our” compares the enemies of the cross of Christ to the body of Christ. There should be a disparity.
- b. Conversation
 - i. **Conversation- Greek word *pepoithesis*** - Strongs Con. from the perfect of the alternate of G3958; reliance:— confidence, trust.
 - ii. **Not the words we say but our citizenship**
- c. Heaven
 - i. **Ephesians 1:3** ³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:
 - ii. **Ephesians 2:6** ⁶And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:
- d. Looking for Christ
 - i. **Colossians 3:1-4** ¹If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
 - ii. **Titus 2:13** ¹³Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
- e. Glorified bodies
 - i. Christ’s
 - ii. Ours
 - 1. **Romans 8:23** ²³And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.
 - 2. **Ephesians 1:14** ¹⁴Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

3. **Ephesians 4:30** ³⁰And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
4. **I Corinthians 15:50** ⁵⁰Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.
5. **I Corinthians 15:51-54**⁵¹Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.
6. **I Thessalonians 4:16-17** ¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.