



BY DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NEVADA

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with his commentary in the smaller text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

Later in his life, I bet the innkeeper wished he'd made more room than he thought he had for Jesus." - Dr. Bob Goff

I always try to help people think of today—the now. Only today, can you decide what you will do with Jesus! I want them to be warned about a future they may not see—it may come too quickly. I also try to help people forget the past—except for what Jesus Christ did for them. - The Late Evangelist Junior Hill

## 1. Understand the Present.

**Philippians 3:12–13, NASB95** -<sup>12</sup> *Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect [lit., complete and/or mature] but I press on [a hunting metaphor, “to chase” or “to track”] so that I may lay hold [rf., apprehend] of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus [Paul (Saul) was apprehended in Acts 9:6ff)]. <sup>13</sup> *Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold [rf., apprehend] of it yet; but one thing [in the imperative mood, lit., “once and for all”] I do [the words, “I do,” do not appear in the Greek text but are added for clarity]....**

## 2. Forget the Past.

**Philippians 3:13, NASB95** -<sup>13</sup> *Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting [something ‘declared irrelevant’] what lies behind [lit., “what was placed at the*

*altar” (it involves ‘putting something down’) and reaching forward [pictured is an athlete running at full speed] to what lies ahead....*

**Regarding your past, look at it, learn from it, then, let it go!**

## 3. Focus on “One Thing!”

**Philippians 3:13–14, NASB95** -<sup>13</sup> *Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

**Philippians 3:13–14, NLT** -<sup>13</sup> *...I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

**Philippians 3:13–14, TLB** -<sup>13</sup> *No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us.*

**Philippians 3:13, TLB** -<sup>13</sup> *I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus.*

## 4. Expect the Enemy.

**Philippians 3:18–19, NASB95** -<sup>18</sup> *For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, <sup>19</sup> whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.*

## 5. Anticipate the Future.

**Philippians 3:20–21, NASB95** -<sup>20</sup> *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.*

**What will your ONE THING be this year?**