

Refining the New You in 2022 Philippians 3:12-16

“What’s the use...”

Is 2022 going to be nothing more than a repeat of 2021 which was nothing more than a repeat of 2020?

The pandemic is not the only crisis we hoped would be better this year.

Annual inflation rate in the US accelerated to 6.8% in November of 2021, the highest since June of 1982

The US nationally saw its highest-ever increase in homicides in 2020, but a dozen cities have now set new records this year.

Is this the "new normal"?

As we end 2021 and look to 2022, will anything change?

Will the pandemic become permanent?

Will inflation stay with us?

Will violence escalate?

Jackson MS had 152 homicides in 2021... up from last year’s record high number of homicides at 130...

Will the midterm elections deepen our partisan divides?

Will our culture continue its slide into dogmatic secularism and unbiblical immorality?

A New York Times guest essay titled "Is the West Becoming Pagan Again?" answers largely in the affirmative.

How will these and other situations and circumstances this year affect me?

ONE THING

→ Pic 1 – Blank

THE DAILY SITUATIONS AND
CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE

→ Pic 2 – Define 1

THE DAILY SITUATIONS AND
CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE

DEFINE ME		

→ Pic 3 – Confine 1

THE DAILY SITUATIONS AND
CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE

DEFINE ME	CONFINE ME	

→ Pic 4 – Refine 1

THE DAILY SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE

DEFINE ME	CONFINE ME	REFINE ME

→ **Pic 5 – Define 2**

THE DAILY SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE

DEFINE ME	CONFINE ME	REFINE ME
STUCK		

→ **Pic 6 – Confine 2**

THE DAILY SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE

DEFINE ME	CONFINE ME	REFINE ME
STUCK	STALLED	

→ **Pic 7 – Refine 2**

THE DAILY SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE

DEFINE ME	CONFINE ME	REFINE ME
STUCK	STALLED	STRENGTHENED

Philippians 3:12–16 (ESV) — 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in

anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Are you settling for “What’s the use” or are you striving towards “The New You”?

→ **STORY – Ten Words That Changed Me**

Ten words. That’s all it took to shake me. I was a junior in High School and it was Friday night football. The scent of dirt and body odor permeated the air. The band playing and fans cheering were muffled by the yelling and grunting of collisions on the field. It was midway through the third quarter of our season opener and we were behind 28 to 14.

As quarterback I knew every detail of every play in our playbook. That was my job. If a lineman forgot his blocking assignment, I had to tell him. If a back lined up in the wrong position, I had to move him. Thus far I had done my job flawlessly. That’s why the ten words shook me.

Our defense had just forced a punt so I strapped on my helmet preparing to re-enter the game. I ran to the side of our Head Coach to receive our first down play when it happened. Coach Willard was 5’9” of pure athlete. He had been a star player in both high school and college with an intensity that carried into his coaching style. He was always fair, but always clear.

The fire in his eyes as we met began to burn in my gut. He grabbed the numbers of my jersey with both hands and yanked me toward him until his nose was pressed against my facemask. Through gritted teeth and a clinched jaw, he yelled, “Quit playing like a loser and go win this game!”

Was he actually blaming me that we were behind? Was it my fault the defense had allowed the other team to score four times? He pushed me away and I headed to the field.

Somewhere between Coach Willard's tirade and the huddle my confusion, frustration, and anger kindled a fire in my soul. As I stepped in the huddle I told my teammates the play and then said, "We are going to win this game!" I didn't yell, but the look in my eyes and the certainty in my voice ignited that same fire in the other players. Those ten words by Coach had awakened something inside me. Something that had gone dormant. We went on to win the game. Final score: 34-28.

To say those ten words shook me doesn't mean they made me afraid or discouraged.

Instead, those ten words shook me awake. You see, I had been the starting quarterback the previous year as our team went 0-10. That's right, we didn't win a game. In fact, we were never even close.

I had developed a losing attitude. Losing had become a habit. I hadn't always been a loser, but losing had become my routine.

In both 8th and 9th grade my teams had gone undefeated. We were winners and expected to win every game. When we moved to High School many of us became starters on a varsity team that hadn't had a winning season in years.

Through the course of that previous season my mindset toward losing had shifted from hatred to toleration and finally to acceptance.

1. AWAKENING – The DANGER of a COMPLACENCY.

Philippians 3:12 (ESV) — Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

What is the "THIS" in the passage?

It is the desire of knowing Christ intimately!

Philippians 3:10–11 (NLT) — I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

Knowing someone is an ongoing adventure...

Knowing Christ is also an ongoing adventure!

Jesus said that the religious person may know much about Jesus, but the true Christ-follower KNOWS JESUS!

Matthew 7:22–23 (ESV) — On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Jesus, in His prayer on the night he was betrayed, prayed...

John 17:3 (ESV) — And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Never settle for "Good Enough"

2. AWARENESS – Our ATTITUDES create our REALITIES.

Philippians 3:13a (ESV) — Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own.

The word that is translated, “CONSIDER” means...

To think about something in a detailed and logical manner—‘to think about, to reason about, to ponder, reasoning.’

Philippians 2:5 (ESV) — Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

3. ADJUSTING – Our ROUTINES become our ROUTES.

Philippians 3:13b (ESV) — ... But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead ...

Don’t let your past define you!

4. ADVANCING – Our PERSISTENCE overcomes every RESISTANCE.

Philippians 3:14 (ESV) — I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Don’t let your past define you!

The phrase, “I press on toward the goal” means...

(an idiom, literally ‘to pursue to a goal, to press toward a goal’) to strive energetically for some purpose—‘to strive toward a goal, to press on with the purpose of.’

Galatians 6:9 (ESV) — And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

5. ATTAINING – Our PURSUIT enhances our INFLUENCE.

Philippians 3:15–16 (ESV) — Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Advancing into the New You in 2022
Philippians 3:12-16

1. _____ – The _____ of
_____.

2. _____ – Our _____ create
our _____.

3. _____ – Our _____ become
our _____.

4. _____ – Our _____
overcomes every _____.

5. _____ – Our _____ enhances
our _____.

**THE DAILY SITUATIONS AND
CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE**
