

“This One Thing”

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:13-15

Introduction:

Notice first something about the book of Philippians:

Oftentimes in Bible study you can pick up on a theme or subject that the book (or chapter), is dealing with primarily.

In this book, Paul deals a lot with the subject of “*The Mind*.”

Chapter 1 = The “*Single Mind*” (1:27) “with one mind...”

Chapter 2 = The “*Submissive Mind*” (2:5) “Let this mind be...”

*Chapter 3 = The “*Spiritual Mind*” (3:15) “be thus minded...”

Chapter 4 = The “*Secure Mind*” (4:7) “shall keep your minds...”

*Let’s circle back to chapter 3 – “The Spiritual Mind”:

You see the “*spiritual mind*” is already “*single*” (chp. 1); “*submissive*” (Chp. 2)...

Notice now what Paul says in Verse 13:

Philippians 3:13 (KJV)

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,

He is saying: “*my MIND*” is “*single*” and “*submitted*” to God’s will and *this is what I am going to do!* “*One thing!*”

Note James 1:8:

James 1:8 (KJV)

⁸A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Notice a couple of Biblical facts concerning numbers in the Scripture that are befitting to our subject this morning:

“ONE” = The number for “UNITY!”

In the Scriptures we see: **ONE** Body; **ONE** Birth; **ONE** Blood; **ONE** Bible; **ONE** Baptism; **ONE** Lord; **ONE** Faith; **ONE** God (and Father of all!!!)

➤ Shouldn’t we then have “**ONE MIND?**”

Also notice this: Paul’s “**ONE THING**” consists of **3** (THREE) statements (or actions):

THREE = is one of the numbers in the Bible for “Divine Completion!”

The Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)!
The Trilogy of man (Body, Soul, and Spirit)!

There are many “threes” in the Bible concerning Christ: (The Way, Truth and Life); Him which IS; WAS; and IS to come!

THREE times His Father’s “voice from Heaven” spoke to or about Him!

➤ So, in these “three” statements or actions of Paul’s ONE mind, we see “Divine Completion!” – Paul’s MIND was “spiritually” “complete!”

Notice **V. 13-14** closely:

Philippians 3:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ Brethren, 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,

¹⁴ I **press** toward the mark for the **prize** of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

1. **Paul's Priority**— "*this ONE thing*"
2. **Paul's *Plan**— "*forgetting, reaching, pursuing*"
3. **Paul's Purpose**— "*for the prize*"

*Let's circle back to that 2nd point and consider "**Paul's Plan**" this morning for the crux of our message: "**This One Thing!**"

Paul's plan was threefold:

I. **Forget the Past!**

"**Forget**" means to "overlook, disregard, disremember"

The "past" would be a hindrance to Paul if he allowed it to be!

It can be a hindrance to you, me, this church IF we let it be!

Notice with me quickly, 3 things about the PAST:

- We can LEARN from it (positive and negatively)
- We cannot LIVE in it!
- We cannot LEAN on it (for future victories)!

II. **Face the Present Potential!**

Here we focus on the word "*reaching!*"

- Do all you can do NOW!
- Get busy! Work!

- God doesn't want our ABILITY necessarily; He wants our AVAILABILITY!

Romans 1:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴ I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

¹⁵ So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

III. **Faithfully Pursue the Prize!**

v. 14 "*I press...*"

This "goal" absorbed all of Paul's time and energy!

Does it yours?

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (KJV)

⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Are you "fighting the good fight of faith" my friends?

Conclusion:

How's your "mind" this morning church?

Is it Single; Submissive; Spiritual; Secure?

Are you moving FORWARD or stuck in the PAST?

Let us "make up our minds" today to go by Paul's PLANE (ultimately God's plan) and have spiritual success in our life!

Hebrews 12:1-2 (KJV)

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Closing of service:

Invitation Hymn: *"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"*

*Prayerfully written and preached by, B. Beach, TBC (1/7/96) A.M.

Preached again at OBC (10/5/05) Wed.

Used a portion of it again at OBC (9/27/08) Wed.

Preached again at WHBC (1/8/23) A.M.