



PHILIPPIANS 3 PART 3

“One thing I do: forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead”(Philippians 3:13)

In the blink of an eye, Saul the Pharisee—a zealous hunter of Christians—was transformed into Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles, dedicating his life to serving the very people he once persecuted. This radical metamorphosis is the powerful backdrop of Philippians 3, proving that no resume of righteousness or record of rebellion is greater than the transforming power of Christ. If God can completely repurpose Paul, granting him the grace to let go of "Saul" and run freely toward a new purpose, we must ask ourselves a difficult question: why do we still hold ourselves accountable to our past "Saul"? As we dive into this study, we are invited to stop auditing our history and start pressing toward the upward call of God, realizing that just as Paul refused to be defined by his former self, we too must release what is behind to fully grasp the prize ahead.

Read Philippians 3:12-21 Together. What stands out?

Study Questions:

1. Paul explicitly states that he has not yet "attained" perfection. How does acknowledging that we are still a "work in progress" actually protect us from the trap of spiritual pride and keep us moving forward? (Philippians 3:12; Ecclesiastes 7:20, 1 John 1:8, Proverbs 20:9)
2. Earlier in the chapter, Paul counted his impressive religious resume as loss compared to knowing Christ. When we are tempted to compare ourselves to others, why is it vital to remember that human righteousness is insufficient when measured against God's standard? (Philippians 3:9; Isaiah 64:6, 2 Corinthians 10:12, Job 9:2)
3. While humans struggle to 'forget,' Scripture tells us that God chooses to "remember no more" when we repent. If God separates our sin from us as far as the east is from the west, why is it spiritually debilitating to continually replay past failures? (Philippians 3:13; Psalm 103:11-12, Hebrews 10:17, Isaiah 43:25)
4. We are called to "press on" and "lay hold" of that for which Christ laid hold of us. How do we balance the need for personal discipline and effort with the truth that it is ultimately God's power working within us? (Philippians 3:12; Psalm 127:1, Colossians 1:29, Zechariah 4:6)
5. The passage concludes by highlighting Christ's power to "subdue all things to Himself." Since Jesus holds authority over all creation and history, how can we find peace today regarding the chaotic state of the world? (Philippians 3:21; Psalm 8:6, Matthew 28:18, Isaiah 45:23)