

Lesson 9: Philippians 3(11-21)

Philippians 3:12-16 (NASB95)

¹² Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

¹³ 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, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; ¹⁶ however, let us keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.

Suggested Study Questions**Lesson 9 *** Philippians 3:12-16 *****

1. What did Paul not obtain yet? What is "it"? V12
2. How does this passage contribute to the understanding of human responsibility verses God's work in our sanctification? V12
3. V13-14 states "forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize. What are all the possible interpretations and applications of this? (both good and bad)
4. Compare verses 15-16 in different versions. What's different between the versions?
5. Please summarize the attitude this passage wants us to have. What are some difficulties that cause us to have a hard time applying it?

Review & Introductory Remarks

Main Exhortation is?

Section 1: NOT YET**1. Point :**

- a. "What is it?"

- b. Common Fallen Condition (CFC): Type A
 1. *Cross refence : 2 Peter 1:3-9, Phil 1:*

- c. CFC : Type B

Section 2 : I press on :

1. "I press on " = *diōkō*
 - a. Cross References : 1 Timothy 6:12 & 1 Timothy 6:17-19

2. The Paradox of your hold & Jesus' Hold. Who holds?

3. Application ? **"forgetting what lies behind" & "reaching forward to what lies ahead."**

Section 3: Exhortation :**V15 Command: *have this attitude.***

- a. What is this attitude? How can you summarize / explain this attitude?

Suggested Discussion Questions

1. Recently, have you struggled in anyway to press on toward Christ likeness? Have you been discouraged to grow in conformity to Christ?
2. How should we apply “forgetting what lies behind” & “reaching forward to what lies ahead.”
3. Can you relate to either misunderstandings of the “NOT YET?”
4. Why is it that for some people knowing that Christ has already taken hold of us causes passivity, while in Paul it causes greater motivation? How does knowing that Christ holds / owns you, encourage you to press on?
5. What is attitude? Why is it so difficult to change?

Next Passage * Philippians 3:17-21*******Suggested Observation Question**

1. What is/are the main command or commands in this passage? Do the commands connect to any part of the letter preceding this section? (& How)
 - a. Take time to consider, what about the command seems plausible or not plausible?
2. List and observe the description of those “false influencers” found in V18-19?
 - a. What is it about them that we should be most weary of?
 - b. Why does Paul call them enemies of the cross of Christ?
3. Questions about V20-21:
 - a. What is the flow of thought from V18&19 to V20-21? (i.e. How is “For” (at the start of V20) used?
 - b. What spiritual truths are being emphasized in v20-21? How do these truths help combat the falsehoods in v18-19?