

“Preparing For A New Year”
Philippians 3:12-16
New Year’s Message, December 31, 2017

Resolutions can be reduced into 2 categories:

- 1. Things pertaining to us**
- 2. Things pertaining to others**

3rd category that is being left out which will determine why all are doomed to fail!

- 3. Things pertaining to God:** Putting God first, growing in Him.

The Thought Of Our Passage: A Holy Discontent, Having Determination And Being Disciplined Is The Path To Becoming Like Jesus.

- 1. Verse 12 – Discontent**
- 2. Verses 13-14 – Determination**
- 3. Verses 15-16 – Discipline**

1. Verse 12 – Discontent:

Philippians 3:12

“Not that I have already obtained it,” – Context: Philippians 3 – The Spiritual Mind (Pursuit of Christ); Right relationship to God has to be established for both Salvation and Service.

Paul uses the illustration of an “Athlete” to describe “The Christian Life,” that of a foot race or a chariot race. Paul used it in 1 Corinthians 9:25-27.

Paul Makes 3 Confessions:

- 1. He Had Not Received Everything:** “Not that I have already obtained it,” – The word “obtained” – literally, it reads “received.” Paul had not received all that God had for him.

Galatians 5:7

We cannot “attain” or “obtain” all. Paul looks at all that he has accomplished and he knows it is not final.

Paul has just spoken of his desire, Philippians 3:10-11.

- 2. He Had Not Become Everything:** “or have already become perfect,” – The word “perfect” – “finished;” This word speaks of absolute perfection; “perfect, complete, to be made whole.” “Not that... I have already been perfected.”

It can also mean mature or full grown, Philippians 3:15.

Scripture Speaks of 3 Stages of Perfection:

- **Positional Perfection** – This speaks of the Salvation that has been given to every Christian, Hebrews 10:14.
- **Progressive Perfection** – This speaks of maturity in our spiritual walk with God, 2 Corinthians 7:1.

Galatians 3:3

- **Ultimate Perfection** – This takes place in heaven, Ephesians 5:27.

1 John 1:8-10

“The Mark of Being Mature is Knowing That You Are Not Perfect”

We are not to compare ourselves with other Christians.

- 3. He Had Not Done Everything:** “I press on,” – follow after; a Greek word that means “to pursue or to run swiftly in order to catch a person or thing.”

Hebrews 12:1

“so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.” – The verb “laid hold” means “to lay hold of and to pull down.”

God Calls and Saves People (lay hold, or apprehends).

God’s Purpose Is To Conform Us To His Image. (Apprehends us to make us like Himself.)

Romans 8:29-30

Our Response Should Be To Press On.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Discontent: We have not arrived! Do we want more of Jesus? Have we prayed about our lack? What is God saying?

2. Verses 13-14 – Determination:

Philippians 3:13

“Brethren,” – Paul uses the term to draw attention to his conclusion. We All have not arrived!

How to Run with Determination (4 Things):

1. Be Honest With Yourself: “I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;” – Paul emphasized again that he has not arrived. “I do not regard myself” – “to think something through to a conclusion”

2. Forget the Past: “but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind”

Psalm 27:4

“forgetting what lies behind” – “forgetting” – “to forget” in the Bible means “no longer to be influenced by or affected by.”

No person can erase from his memory what has transpired before, but we can keep the past from controlling the present and the future.

Moses said, Genesis 19:26 – “looked back; and she became a pillar of salt.” – Jesus said, Luke 17:32 – “Remember Lot’s wife.”

Hebrews 10:17

3. Reach For The Future: “reaching forward to what lies ahead.”

“reaching forward” – “straining to reach, agonizing to hold;” denotes “an athlete who runs without swerving off course and who strains his entire body to cross the finish line.”

“to what lies ahead.” – For Paul, there were at least three other Epistles remained to be written (I and II Timothy, Titus).

Philippians 3:14

4. Press Toward The Mark: “I press on,” – same as in verse 12 – “but I press on” – This “press on” is speaking of “intense endeavor.” It speaks of “a hunter eagerly seeking his prey.”

“toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” – I Corinthians 9:26.

Determination: We have to be committed!

3. Verses 15-16 – Discipline:

Philippians 3:15 – “Let us therefore,” – When we see the word “therefore,” we need to ask, “What is the therefore there for?”

“therefore” – Paul is identifying himself with the Church.

“as many as are” – This is speaks of a select group of believers that would respond to this appeal. “perfect” – here means “mature, ripeness, full grown and sound.” This word also gives the idea of “being crowned as a victor, having attained the prize.”

Verse 15 – Need The Same Mind: “have this attitude” – (mind) literally – “let us keep on thinking.” We need to have the mind of Christ (Like-Minded).

Philippians 2:5 – “Have this attitude in yourselves”

The Correction: “and if in anything you have a different attitude,”

“God will reveal that also to you;” – Paul is saying that if you can’t see what I am telling you, then all that is left is for God to get through to you!

John 7:17

Verse 16 – The Same Walk: Philippians 3:16.

“however” – “into which;” “keep living” – (walking) “walk orderly, go in order, to direct one’s life, speaks of constant obedience;” Way we conduct ourselves.

“standard” – “rule;” translates to “canon.” The Bible alone is the God-Given Standard of Faith and Practice.

“attained” – same verb for “admonition.”

Galatians 5:25; 2 Timothy 2:5

Discipline: The Bible is the rulebook. God is the Judge.

Application:

1. Discontent: We have not arrived!
2. Determination: We have to be committed!
3. Discipline: We have to play by the rules!

“How To Prepare For 2018:”

1. Make The Church Calendar Your Calendar! (Word, Prayer, Fellowship, Service, and Witness Matters!)

Get A Good Night’s Rest – Learn to say no to commitments that will keep you from being at your best for worship.

2. Prepare For Sunday, Wednesdays – meals, clothes, children.
3. Give Full Attention When Attending The Services – listen for His Message to you.
4. Application: Not how I feel but how I act that really matters. Let God’s Word be the final authority.
5. Those Attending 6 Months Or Longer Are Privileged To Serve – Knowing always involves practice. Knowing is Growing.
6. Pray For The Pastors and Wives, Staff, Leadership, Services, Ministries, Preparation time for study. Delivery of the Word.

Pray for Debbie’s cancer maintenance, and continued healing.

Pray for the protection of God. Leadership is always under attack.