

Motivated to Press On with Joy

September 30th & October 1st, 2017

Philippians 3:12-16

In Philippians 3:11 Paul states ... *“that by any means I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”* Paul was looking forward to the completion of Christ’s work in his life!

“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect,...” Philippians 3:12a

Perfect: (Greek – *Teleiosis*) “...completion ... ending accomplished...”¹

❖ The process of God’s transforming work in us is called “Sanctification”

⇒ Salvation is what God has accomplished for us!

⇒ Sanctification is what God is accomplishing in us!

Hebrews 2:10-11 “For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers,”

⇒ Salvation is a finished work – Sanctification is a process!

- 1 Peter 1:1-2; 14-16

- Sanctify and Holy come from the same root word meaning “different”!

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

- 1 John 3:1-3 “...when He appears we shall be like Him...”

“...but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own.” Philippians 3:12a

Press: a hunting term in the Greek meaning “to pursue” – active and earnest – to chase, overtake, and capture

❖ Paul knew that he could never be perfect here on earth, but he would pursue perfection!

- Ephesians 4:11-16

- 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

❖ Paul was joyfully motivated to pursue maturity in Christ because of the wonder of God’s mercy in that Christ had made Paul His own!

- 1 Timothy 1:12-17

❖ Paul was motivated to grow and mature in his walk with Christ out of love for Jesus, not religious obligation!

Galatians 2:15-16 “We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ

Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.”

- ❖ Paul could endure trials, hardships, and suffering with joy because of his knowledge of Jesus Christ his Savior!

Philippians 3:8 “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...”

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Colossians 1:28-29

“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.”

Endnotes:

¹ Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

◆ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.