

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

PHILIPPIANS 3

Philippians 3

Philippians 3 is one of my favorite chapters in all the Bible. Paul begins the chapter by reminding the Philippians of his pedigree while warning them of false teachers who only want to rob them of their freedom and joy in Jesus. He speaks to them of the reality that we worship God in spirit and truth because God is spirit. Paul's wonderful credentials in Judaism did not add up to salvation but rather condemnation.

"Though I myself could have such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, persecuting the church; as to righteousness in the law, faultless. But whatever was gain to me I count as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things as loss compared to the surpassing excellence of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God on the basis of faith." (Philippians 3:4-9)

All of what the religious world would consider gain, Paul counts as dung. He rather says he will pursue Christ Jesus and His righteousness. Whatever he had attained

or whatever in the future he would attain, he cannot focus on that, but rather on what lies ahead.

I would encourage all of us to do the same things. Paul gives us these two concepts that should guide us as we walk with God. The first concept is to **"Forget,"** he said, **"Forgetting those things that are behind me,"** in the past. The things in the past are both good things and bad things, but they can destroy your future if you are constantly looking back. We get an illustration of this with the automobiles we drive. We have a large windshield in front of us so we can see where we are going because that is of critical importance. We have a small "rear-view" mirror so we can see what is behind us; it is much smaller. If you are constantly looking behind you for what you have done in the past in accomplishments or failures, you are looking in the wrong direction. On the other hand, Paul talks about the other critical concept, **"Focus."** Verse 13 Paul says, **"...reaching forward to those things ahead...(He) is pressing forward to the upward prize and calling that God has given him."** Looking back to good or bad occasionally is in order; continually looking backward while trying to move forward will cause you to fall, to wreck. It will ultimately destroy you.

Prayer and Action Steps

Father, thank You for Your calling upon my life. Thank You that You have a future for me. Thank You that You are guiding me through Your Word by Your Spirit. Please enable me to live my life in forward, not in reverse. Keep me committed! Amen