

A Study of Philippians

Lesson 8: Philippians 3:12-21

Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.

Date	Lesson		Teacher
January 11 th	Living by Every Word of God	Matthew 4:4	John, Gordon, Gerald
January 18 th	Background	Acts 16	Gerald
January 25 th	<hr style="width: 50%; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"/> No Class <hr style="width: 50%; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"/>		
February 1 st	Introduction	Philippians 1:1-11	Gerald
February 8 th	Paul's Personal Update	Philippians 1:12-30	Gerald
February 15 th	Exhortation to Humility	Philippians 2:1-11	Gerald
February 22 nd	Exhortation to Responsibility	Philippians 2:12-30	Gordon
March 1 st	Trading Up	Philippians 3:1-11	Gerald
March 8th	Release from the Past	Philippians 3:12-21	Gerald
March 15 th	Appeal to Unity, Prayer and Imitation	Philippians 4:1-9	John
March 22 nd	The Secret to Life	Philippians 4:10-23	Gordon

Review

What is the difference between singing about God and worshipping God?

Sanctification - The process of transformation

How did Paul pray for his spiritual children (the saints at Philippi)?

For their sanctification (maturity in Christ)

What are the elements of the process of sanctification?

1. Abounding love (living sacrifice, spiritual disciplines) →
2. Knowledge and depth of insight (transformation, biblical worldview) →
3. Discern what is best (the will of God), filled with the fruit of righteousness, bringing glory to God

What does Paul mean by the phrase “to know Christ”?

Sanctification - the basis for his relationship with God; the process of his life

For to me, to live is Christ . . . Phil 1:21

Biblical Text



Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. PHI 3:12- 21[NIV]

Release from the Past



Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect (teleioo to complete) but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on (dioko – to run swiftly) toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward (ano – upwards) in Christ Jesus. PHI 3:12- 14 [NIV]

Sanctification is a process that is completed at the resurrection , which validates our identity

and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ROM 1:4 [NIV]

Sanctification is our present responsibility (i.e., submit to the work of the Holy Spirit)

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. PHI 1:6 [NIV]

Sanctification can be impaired by relying on past laurels and/or holding-on to past hurts and pains

Sanctification enables us to win the race of doing the will of God (general call and specific call)

Converging Position and Practice



All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up (stoicheo to proceed in a row as the march of a soldier, go in order; metaphorically to go on prosperously, to turn out well) to what we have already attained. Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern (tupos – the mark of a stroke, figure, image) we gave you. PHI 3:15- 17[NIV]

Sanctification is evidenced (teleios , vs 12) by adopting Paul’s worldview

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. PHI 3:12 [NIV]

Sanctification is the out-working of regeneration (i.e., walk the talk)

Sanctification is more caught than taught

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1CO 11:1 [NIV]



Citizens of Heaven

For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. PHI 3:18- 21[NIV]

Signs of the enemies of Christ (living a non-biblical worldview)

Destiny (telos) is destruction: Tower of Babel, single generational, monument building (2 Sam 18:18)

God is their stomach: narcissism, hedonism, mammon, Phariseism, addictions, food disorders

Glory is their shame: separation of church & state, money is success (greed), homosexuality

Mind is on earthly things: focused on living for self instead of living for God

Christ's representatives (i.e., ambassadors 2 Cor 5:20)

Every thought, word, and action should reflect Christ (see Col 3:17)

Conclusion

Spiritual healing

Releases you to the sanctification process

Converging Position and Practice

Sanctification is the process of aligning your profession and practice.

Citizens of Heaven on Assignment

Every thought, word and action is based on alignment with God

Discussion Questions



What did the Holy Spirit say to you today based on the presentation that you heard?

How will the truth that you learned today change your life?