

NEVER Dwell on the PAST ~ Philippians 3:12-21

→ **Scripture Reading** Phil. 3:10, 12-14

ONE Thing I DO ~ Philippians 3:12-14

¹² 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.

Paul was a spiritual giant in the eyes of the Philippian believers, so he wanted them to know that he had not yet attained the GOALS stated in vs 10. He was still actively pressing on towards them. ВКC

¹³ 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, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

APPLICATION

...one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind... 3:13

Acts 8:3 (NIV) But Saul began to DESTROY the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

Acts 9:1-2 (NIV) ...Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus...

1 Timothy 1:13-14 (NIV) Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown MERCY because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ The GRACE of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

→ **Do not let the PAST get in the way of KNOWING and GROWING in Jesus**

ONE thing I DO -

- Forget the Past
- Push towards the GOAL
- Press on to Win the Prize

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV) ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

→ **As we Run Remember we have a Cheering Section**

¹...we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses

→ **Before we Run THROW OFF Everything that Gets in the WAY**

¹ ...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles

→ **Run with PERSEVERANCE**

¹ ...let us run with perseverance

→ **Run the COURSE set Before YOU**

¹... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

→ **As we Run our Race we must FOCUS on JESUS**

² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus

→ **Godliness is a JOURNEY - not a DESTINATION**

Walk of MATURITY ~ Philippians 3:15-16

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Christians should NEVER be satisfied with yesterday's GRACE. DA Carson

APPLICATION

James 4:17 (HCS) So it IS a sin for the person who knows to DO what is GOOD and doesn't DO it.

James 4:17 (NLT) Remember, it IS sin to KNOW what you OUGHT to DO and then NOT DO it.

➔It is more than just NOT Doing Wrong - but it is also purposely DOING what is RIGHT

Our CITIZENSHIP is IN Heaven ~ Philippians 3:17-21

¹⁷ Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (HCS) Imitate me, AS I also imitate Christ.

Paul had received God's Mercy that he might become a PATTERN for others. His life after his conversion was dedicated to SHOWING others how a Christian should live. MacDonald

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

For them, the important things in life were food, clothing, honor, comfort, and pleasure. Eternal issues and heavenly things did not disturb their groveling in the muck of this world. They carried on as if they were going to live on earth forever. BKC

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ 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.

TAKE AWAY ??

ENEMIES of the CROSS

DESTINY is Destruction

APPETITES are their god

PROUD of Shameful Lifestyle

FOCUSED on Here and Now

CITIZENS of Heaven

We BELONG to Jesus

We Wait EAGERLY for His COMING

We LONG to be TRANSFORMED

He WILL Reign in POWER

Colossians 1:21-22 (NLT) ...you who were once FAR AWAY from God. You were **His ENEMIES**, SEPARATED from Him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now He has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Christ...

Titus 3:3-7 (NLT) ³ Once WE, TOO, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other.

⁴ **BUT** When **God our Savior** revealed His kindness and love, ⁵ He SAVED us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His MERCY. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. ⁶ He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.

⁷ Because of His grace He DECLARED us RIGHTEOUS and gave us CONFIDENCE that we will inherit eternal life."