

Overcoming Your Past
Philippians 3:12-14

Carl C McKee Jr
NT 321- Prison Epistle
Instructor: Pastor Trevor Crenshaw
December 11, 2022

Introduction:

In this exegetical research paper study on Philippians 3:12-14, the Apostle Paul's immediate reason for writing the Philippians was to tell them about Epaphroditus' health. He had been their messenger whom they had sent to help Paul, and he had become the Apostle's fellow worker and soldier. Paul was now sending him back to them (2:25-30). Paul's desire to inform the Philippians that he was soon to send Timothy to them (2:19-24); his charge to two women, Euodia and Syntyche, to get along with one another (4:2-3); his thankfulness to the Philippians for the generous gifts they had sent to him (4:10-19); and the need to warn them about the Judaizers (3:2).

[New Testament Background Commentary W.H Harold Mare Copyright © W H Mare 2004
Geanies House, Fearn, Tain, Ross-shire, IV20 1TW, Scotland]

Outline:

I.Be honest about today (Phil.3:12)

II.Forget what's behind (Phil.3:13)

III.You must stay focus and continue to move foward (Phil.3:14)

Context:

Located on the major Roman road known as the Via Egnatia, Philippi was “a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony” (Acts 16:12). Because of its strategic location, Philippi became a strategic location for trade despite the fact it was 13 km from Neapolis, the nearest seaport.

As a Roman colony, Philippi was intended to be a miniature version of Rome. However, the Roman character of the city did not erase the previously existing Greek Hellenistic culture. As the lingua franca of the Empire, Greek was widely spoken. Many of the Greeks and Thracians in the area who were displaced by newly settled Romans remained in the area. Witherington sums it up well when he writes, “We must then talk about a Roman overlay of culture and custom on top of the indigenous Greek Hellenistic culture which continued in various ways.” [Harmon, Matthew, *The City Of Philippians in the Bible*, Nov.2022, Bible study tools, www.biblestudytools.com]

Paul was in bondage when he wrote Philippians. But all do not agree on which imprisonment he experienced when he wrote the book. Most believe he was in Rome at the time; some suggest he was in Caesarea, and a few argue for Ephesus.

The Scriptures give no clear indication of any imprisonment in Ephesus. As for Caesarea, Paul was confined there for two years, but imminent martyrdom is not suggested in the account which describes this confinement (Acts 23–24). His reference to the palace guard (Phil. 1:13) and his concern about facing possible death (v. 20–26) argue for his writing from Rome. The date of the writing would then be a.d. 61 or 62. [Lightfoot, J.B. *Saint Paul’s Epistle to the Philippians*. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1953].

Content:

I. Be honest about today (Php. 3:12)

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if they I may apprehended or take hold that for which also I am apprehended or taken hold by Christ Jesus.
(Php.3:12)

Paul was letting us know I don't profess to have all the answers; I have some missing pieces in my life.

Not as though I already attained: attain" in Greek; attain {vb} · επιτυγχάνω Spurgeon states: Paul had not yet reached his ideal of being a Christian. Paul had not yet apprehended from Christ all that he expected to obtain. He hasn't completed the race yet; his joy arises from the fact that he is on the right course and running in the right direction. I think that any person who believed himself to be better than Paul would thereby prove at once that he was not perfect, for he must be sadly lacking in humility.

[Spurgeon Commentary: Philippians Copyright 2014 Lexham Press, 1313 Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225]

Either was already perfect: Paul was making progress; many say they are not perfect, but it seems to be. Paul says that a trace of sinful nature or a sinful predisposition made him cry out.

I may hold or apprehended also laid of that: There is Christ's power by which He apprehends us, and then there is the new power, the new life of God-given faith, by which we, in turn, seek to apprehend that for which Christ has apprehended us. Christ has apprehended us for a purpose; we wish to realize that purpose even to the full. <https://answersingenesis.org/education/spurgeon-sermons/2315-paul-apprehended-and-apprehending/>

II. Forget what's behind (Php.3:13)

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (Php 3:13, ESV)

Warren Wiersbe says, "**One thing**" is a phrase important to the Christian life. Jesus said, "**One thing** thou lackest the self-righteous rich young ruler. (Mark 10:21) "**One thing** is needful," He explained to Martha when she criticized her sister. (Luke 10:42). [The Bible Exposition Commentary Warren W.Wiersbe Copyright 1989 by S.P. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Victor Books, P.O. Box 1825, Wheaton, Illinois 60189]. We know that One thing deals with what's about to happen. He said I could waste my time looking at what was behind me. I'm on an assignment, and I can't allow what's behind stopping what does ahead before me. Paul had reasons to forget the past; he had held the coat of those who had stoned Stephen, (Acts 7:57-58). We have all done things we are ashamed of, and we will live in the tensions of what we have been and want to do.

The Moody Bible Commentary says in (v.13), "forgetting what lies behind," which means you have to forget the past. The past refers to failures and sins but his own legalistic but very successful religion. [The Moody Bible Commentary Michael Rydelnik and Michael Vanlaningham- General Editors Moody Publishers, Chicago © 2014 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago]. Paul said I fail to remember because if I remember, it will pull me back to what I used to do.

III. You must stay focus and continue to move forward. (Php .3:14)

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Php.3:14 Dakes)

New Bible Commentary 21st century edition) says: There was a prize to be won. However, we cannot be sure whether Paul saw the prize as Christ himself (cf. v 8), 'God's call to the life above' (neb), or the 'crown of life (Jas. 1:12; cf. 1 Cor. 9:25), the gift of God's grace to those who faithfully persevere in their calling to the end.

Paul reached and stretched himself toward his point, expressing great concern about becoming more like Christ. A person that continues to racemust never stop short of the end. Move forward fast , so those that has heaven in their view must still push forward in holy desires and hopes and constant endeavors. Eternal life is the gift that's God has given which is Christ.

Application :

In this paper, Paul has explained in (Php.3) that he is to be found in Christ by finding righteousness not based on works of the law but on faith. His goal was to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. The exegetical paper help to understand the thoughts of different theologians and others etc. The Hardship, humility, love, service, and hope beyond glory. Paul informs the Philippians that even though they face persecution and danger, their lives as Christians should be consistent with the truth of God in Jesus, who gave himself up in love for others. When overcoming our past, we can't allow past situations to stop us from moving forward.

Bibliography:

Spurgeon Commentary: Philippians

Copyright 2014 Lexham Press
Lexham Press, 1313 Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225

The Bible Knowledge Commentary An Exposition of the Scriptures
by Dallas Seminary Faculty
Old Testament and New Testament edition
Based on the New International Version
Editors: John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck
© 1983, SP Publications, Inc. All rights reserved
New Testament: Stanley D. Toussaint, A.B., Th.M., Th.D.
Chairman and Senior Professor of Bible Exposition Dallas Theological Seminary
Robert P. Lightner, Th.B., M.L.A., Th.M., Th.D.
Professor of Systematic Theology-Philippians

The Bible Exposition Commentary Warren W. Wiersbe
Copyright 1989 by SP Publications, Inc.
All rights reserved. Victor Books, P.O. Box 1825, Wheaton, Illinois 60189.
Electronic Edition, Copyright 1996, by SP Publications, Inc.
Victor Books A division of Scripture Press Wheaton, Illinois 60187

The Moody Bible Commentary
Michael Rydelnik and Michael Vanlaningham- General Editors Moody Publishers, Chicago ©
2014 by
The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

A Concise New Testament Theology InterVarsity Press, USA
P.O. Box 1400, Downers Grove, IL 60515-1426, USA
World Wide Web: www.ivpress.com
Email: email@ivpress.com
Inter-Varsity Press, England Norton Street, Nottingham NG7 3HR, England
Website: www.ivpbooks.com Email: ivp@ivpbooks.com ©2008 by I. Howard Marshall

New Bible Commentary 21st Century Edition
Consulting editors: D. A. Carson Research Professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical
Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, USA, R. T. France Principal, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, UK

Lightfoot, J.B. Saint Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Zondervan
Publishing House, 1953.

[Harmon, Matthew, The City Of Philippians in the Bible, Nov.2022, Bible study tools,
www.biblestudytools.com]

