

This week...

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-16

Monday Philippians 3:12 *“I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine.”*

Read the entire passage of Philippians 3:12-16. Do you remember where Paul is as he writes this letter? If not, read Philippians 1:12-14. Imagine yourself in his situation. What would have been most on your mind, and how might you have expressed your thoughts regarding what has occurred in the recent past and your attitude toward the future? Are you as God wants you to be? If not, why not? Are you able to figure out what goal or goals He has placed in front of you? Meditate on what it means to make God's goal yours. Pray about how you will make this a reality if you haven't already.

Tuesday Philippians 3:12 *“I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine.”*

In his day, and even in modern history, some have considered Paul to be arrogant or full of himself. From this passage, how did he view his life and purpose? It is a humble person who recognizes that he yet has room to grow and improve. Do you see Paul's desire to empty himself of self in order to be filled and controlled by Christ? Can you find some other New Testament references that point to Paul's humility before the Lord and the brethren?

Wednesday Philippians 3:12-14 *“Christ wants me to do that, which is the reason he made me his. Brothers and sisters, I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, I keep trying to reach the goal and get the*

prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above.”

How are you when it comes to New Year's resolutions? Can you remember some you've made in the past that didn't last much past February? Paul's is not a New Year's resolution but a life commitment. How willing are you to name those things of God that you have failed to reach or maintain? More importantly, are you able to forget past failures or shortcomings and strain toward what is ahead? What will be your motivation? Note carefully that Paul is running toward the goal placed there by God, and his prize will also come from the Lord. It should be no other way, because God calls the believer to this level of commitment through Christ.

Thursday Philippians 3:15-16 *“All of us who are spiritually mature should think this way, too. And if there are things you do not agree with, God will make them clear to you. But we should continue following the truth we already have.”*

According to Paul, if we do not agree with the challenge he puts forth, what are we? Spiritually immature believers will never reach the goal before them, because their minds and hearts are not focused on the genuine prize. A church filled with immature believers will be crippled and of little value to God's work. Pray about those things that will make you and your church effective.

Friday Philippians 3:16 *“But we should continue following the truth we already have”*

We may not know how to do everything that is far in our future, but what is necessary is to follow the truth we have in the present. God reveals His will and the path we are to take as we obey one step at a time. Pray to be faithful in all you do and say. Be a light to His truth.