

Keep Your Eyes On The Prize Philippians 3

Paul's Desire For His Brethren (Us) ...

¹Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed *is* not grievous, but for you *it is* safe. ²Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. ³For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Paul's Example Of the Needed Self Sacrifice ...

⁴Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: ⁵Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; ⁶Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Paul's Motivation To Make Such A Sacrifice ...

⁷But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

Why Was (Is) It So Important To "Win Christ"?

⁹And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: ¹⁰That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; ¹¹If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. ¹²Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Question: What Is The Prize? (*We Need To Know What It Is That We Are To Sacrifice To Strive Toward If We Are To Succeed*)

1. Not his present state, for it was something which was yet "before"... (vs. 13)
2. It was connected with the resurrection of the dead (vs. 11)
3. *Heaven!* "If heaven's not my home, then Lord what will I do..." (Cf. 1 Cor. 15:19)
4. What is so great about heaven? (What would cause Paul — and us — to keep our eyes on the prize?)
 - (1) Be with Him! (Philippians 1:23; Revelation 21:1-3) [and like Him! (1 John 3:1-3; Romans 8:16-18)]
 - (2) Be away from sorrow and pain (Revelation 21:4-5)
 - (3) Be away from all that is impure (Revelation 21:6-8; 27; Galatians 5:19-21)
 - (4) Be with the redeemed (Revelation 21:23-24; Matthew 25:34-36; Galatians 5:22-24)
 - (5) Be with those faithful I long to see again (2 Samuel 12:18-23)

Conclusion:

¹⁵Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. ¹⁶Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

¹⁷Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. ¹⁸(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.) ²⁰For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.