

## APPREHENDED BY GOD

Philip. 3:12-16

I. Vs 16 Paul encourages every believer to walk in the revelation they currently have

A. Vs 15 “as many as be **perfect**” Def: **mature** / Paul is speaking to the spiritually mature

1. vs 15 “as many as are mature, have this **mind**” Def **mind**: to interest one self in, set affections on

a. vs 12 - 15 Paul reveals the **MIND SET OF A MATURE BELIEVER** : their interest & affections

II. Mind set of a mature believer: Phil 3:12 “**Not that I have already attained**”

A. Paul is saying that he has not yet “arrived”

1. Paul understood there was still room & a need & room and a need for:

a. spiritual growth, fellowship with the saints, seeking the face of God in prayer, study of the word of God

2. More mature attributes of a mature believer

a. **VS 12 PRESS ON, VS 14 PRESS TOWARD VS 13 REACHING FORWARD**

**VS 13 FORGETTING THE THINGS BEHIND**

B. VS 13 “**FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND**””

1. We must: **Forgive our self & have assurance of God forgiving us,**

a. by understanding the POWER OF JESUS BLOOD.... Psalms 103:12

2. Also: we must be willing to **forgive others**

a. We can tell if a person is living in their past or reaching forward into their future God has for them: Jer 29:11

(1) By simply listening to the words they speak

(A) if their words speak of past offenses, bitter experience, etc. they have unforgiveness in their heart

(B) if calling those things that be not as though they were (Rom 4:17) they are reaching into God’s future for them

(1) The **immature & carnal mind** reaches into the past / the **mature** reach forward & confess the Word of God

III. Vs 12 **PRESS ON**, vs 14 **PRESS TOWARD**, vs 13 **REACH FORWARD**

A. We must learn to reach forward by faith as Abraham did: Heb 11:10

1. Abraham looked into the future / not his past: for a city God was building

2. That “city” was the church: which had foundations upon which Abraham could build his life

a. Heb 12:22-44 note: Mount Zion and to the city of the living God...heavenly Jerusalem...to the **CHURCH**

IV. Mind set of a mature believer: Philip 3:12 **PRESS ON** & VS 14 **PRESS TOWARD** Def: to pursue

A. Not to be a half hearted effort & not for the faint hearted: there are battles t & obstacles & a walk of faith

V. Philip 3:14 **Def Mark**: goal / referring to your vision, dream, direction , & will of God

A Must have a goal, mark , vision, target: or we will perish Prv 29:18

B. Philip 3:14 I “press toward the mark for the **PRIZE**”

1. Heb 11:6 “He / God is a **rewarder** of those who **diligently** seek him”

a. This “PRIZE” is an eternal reward that we will receive from Jesus: Matt 25:23

(1) This “PRIZE” are also crowns we will receive in glory: Imperishable crown 1 Cor 9:25, crown of

Righteousness 2 Tim 4:8, crown of life (zoe) James 1:12 & Rev 2:10, crown of glory 1 Per 5:4

C. Philip 3:14 “**high / upward calling** of God in Christ Jesus”: This calling is only found “**IN CHRIST**

1. The **world** has a call for your life, the **devil** has a call for your life, **man** has a call for your life, **Jesus Christ** has a call for your life: WHICH WILL YOU FULFILL / WHICH ARE YOU PRESSING TOWARD?

a. Phil 3:8 Paul counted all things as loss that he might gain the true prize & “**WIN CHRIST**”

VI. Philip 3:12 “that I may **lay hold** of that for which **Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me**”

A. “**That I may lay hold**”: Paul was in pursuit / pressing on / pressing toward / reaching forward

1. He had a Damascus road experience with Jesus / encountered the power of The Holy Spirit, came face to face

With the presence of God / tasted of the glory

a. and Paul spent the rest of his life in pursuit of Jesus....**he wanted more of The Jesus**

2. In the midst of Paul’s pursuit: **PHILIP 3:12 “CHRIST JESUS HAS LAID HOLD OF ME”**

a. In the midst of Paul pressing on, pressing toward, reaching forward: The Lord turn and lays hold of / apprehends Paul

(1) What Paul pursued all his life, has now laid hold of him

(2) Now: regardless of the storms, trials of life, Paul could not stop living for Jesus & fulfilling his calling

(3) Paul could not quit: 1 Cor 9:16 “Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”

(A) Heb 12:29 “Our God is a consuming fire” / Paul was consumed / laid hold of / apprehended by God

B. **WHOM / WHAT YOU ARE PURSUING: WILL TURN & LAY HOLD OF / APPREHEND YOU:**

1. Which calling are you Pressing, Pressing toward, Reaching forward to: the world, the devil, man or Jesus Christ?