

Philippians Series

Lesson #075

June 13, 2024

Dean Bible Ministries

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Running to Win

Philippians 3:12–14



Context

Php. 1:27, “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, [NKJV]

Php. 1:28, “and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.”

In Php. 3 the focus is on standing firm against error.

Two sources:

- 1. The Judaizers: added human works to justification and/or spiritual growth (sanctification).**
- 2. The enemies of the cross of Christ, Php. 3:17ff**

Php. 3:12, “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected [arrived at maturity]; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”

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Php. 3:13, “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

Php. 3:14, “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

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λαμβάνω

***lambanō* 1 sing**

aor act indic

to take, receive,

choose

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**λαμβάνω
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aor act indic
to take, receive,
choose**

**τελειόω *teleioō* 1 sing perf mid
indic to finish, to complete or to
become complete, to finish,
accomplish something or become
fully mature [HCSB]**

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**καταλαμβάνω
katalambanō 1 sing aor
act subj to take,
overtake, reach**

**καταλαμβάνω *katalambanō*
1 sing aor pass indic
to take, overtake, reach**

1 Cor. 9:24, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain [lay hold of] *it*.”

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βραβεῖον *brabeion*

neut sing acc

prize

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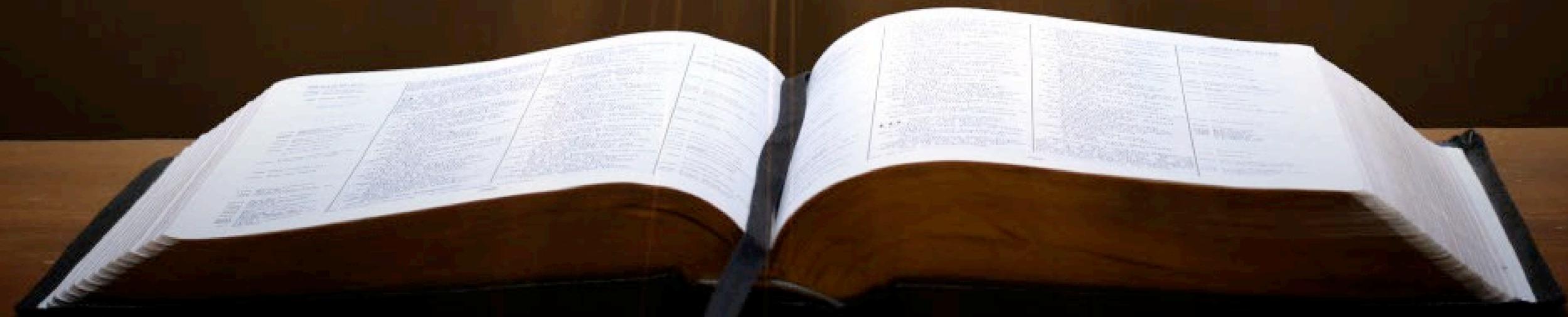
**βραβεῖον *brabeion*
neut sing acc
prize**

Php. 3:14, “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

1 Cor. 9:25, “And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*.”

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Crowns and Rewards



1. *Stephanos*—the victor's crown: a crown given as an award for successful achievement, for victory in the Olympic games, bravery in combat, or a place of honor at a feast. The *stephanos* is given for achievement or merit. This is the term used to describe the crown of thorns on Jesus head.

2. *Diadema*—the royal crown: describes a crown used for a king. DIADEMA is not used for the believer's rewards in the Bible.

Mark 15:17, “And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head;”
Also Matt. 27:29; John 19:2

στέφανον *stephanos*
masc sing acc
crown

**Rev. 3:11, “ ‘I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have,
in order that no one take your crown.’ ”**

**στέφανον *stephanos*
masc sing acc
crown**

Rev. 4:4, “And around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.”

στέφανον στέφανος

crown

Rev. 4:10, “the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,”

στέφανον στέφανος

crown

Rev. 12:3, “And another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.”

διάδημα *diadēma*

neut plur acc

ruling crown, diadem

Rev. 13:1, “And he stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.”

διάδημα *diadēma*

ruling crown, diadem

Rev. 19:12, “And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself.”

διάδημα *diadēma*

neut plur acc

ruling crown, diadem

- 3. The Romans had many different crowns as decorations in the military; they also gave crowns to the winners of athletic contests.**
 - a. The *corona obsidionalis* or *graminia*—a wreath woven from grass on the spot—was given to a general who broke a siege.**
 - b. The *corona myrtea* or *ovalis*, the crown of bay leaves, was given to the general who had a lesser triumph.**
 - c. The *corona civica* was a crown made of golden oak leaves. This was awarded to a soldier who saved the life of another.**

- d. The *corona navalis* was the highest decoration in the navy for destroying an enemy fleet or the first marine to board an enemy ship.**
- e. The *corona vallaris* made of gold, was awarded to the first soldier to reach the enemy lines in battle.**

4. Each crown included monetary reward, freedom from taxes, children educated at public expense, and a statue of the person erected in the public square. The crown is used by analogy for the greatest honors God can give to believers.

5. To understand the nature of crowns we must understand the cultural imagery of the games which underlies this metaphor. The believer is compared to the athlete.

2 Tim. 2:4, “No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

2 Tim. 2:5, “And also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.”

6. The games were well known in the ancient world and developed in Greece during the 6th century B.C.

**the Olympian games,
the Isthmyian Games held at the Isthmus of
Corinth,
the Pythian games at Delphi,
the Nemean games at Argos.**



Delphi

Patara

4

Athens

Corinth

Isthmia

Nemea

Olympia

3

Peloponnese

3. Saronic Gulf

4. Gulf of Corinth

Mediterranean Sea

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Starting Line at Isthmia





7. The believer does not seek rewards for his own glory, but to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 4:6, “Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.”

Rev. 4:10, “the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

Rev. 4:11, “ ‘You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.’ ”

1 Cor. 9:25, “And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*.”

**στέφανον στέφανος
masc sing acc
crown**

As believers were are not to live our Christian lives aimlessly, but toward the goal of winning the prize.

1 Cor. 9:26, “Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who beats the air.*”

δέρω (*derō*), beat, flay

1 Cor. 9:27, “But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

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ὑπωπιάζω *hypōriazō*

to strike, treat roughly, maltreat

1 Cor. 9:27, “But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

ἀδόκιμος *adókimos*

**Unapproved, unworthy,
unqualified, worthless,
unacceptable, spurious. Used of
the athlete who failed in the 10
months of training or he failed to
win.**

1 Cor. 9:27, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

**ἀδόκιμος *adokimos* masc sing nom unqualified,
worthless, unacceptable**

1 Cor. 3:13, “each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test [qualify] each one’s work, of what sort it is.”

**δοκιμάζω *dokimazō* 3 sing fut act indic to evaluate,
approve, to qualify**

1 Tim. 4:8, “For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”

2 Tim. 4:6, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

2 Tim. 4:7, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;”

2 Tim. 4:8, “in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Rev. 2:10, “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

James 1:12, “Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved [*dokimos*], he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”