

# Philippians Series

Lesson #076

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# Reaching for the Goal Philippians 3:12–14



**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.”**

**διώκω diōkō**

**1 sing pres act indic  
to pursue, run after**

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

**λαμβάνω *lambanō*  
1 sing 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]**

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

**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*.”**

**καταλαμβάνω *katalambanō*  
2 Pl aor act subj to take,  
overtake, reach**

**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.**

**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 we 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.”**

**ὑπωπιάζω *hypōpiazō***

**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.”**

**ἄδόκιμος *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**

**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;”**

## **For What Did Christ Lay Hold of Us?**

- 1. For eternal life with Him,**
- 2. For the excellence of the knowledge of Christ (Php. 3:8, 10),**
- 3. Having the righteousness which is from God through faith (Php. 3:9),**
- 4. To know the power of His resurrection (Php. 3:10),**
- 5. To know the partnership with His sufferings (Php. 3:10b),**
- 6. To attain to the Rapture either before or after He died physically, he wasn't sure (Php. 3:11),**
- 7. Attaining eternal rewards (Php. 3:13–14),**
- 8. Paul sets these as Christ's goal for him and us, not the legalistic goals of the Judaizers.**

## For What Did Christ Lay Hold of Us?

9. To be transformed (Rom. 12:2) and conformed to the character of Christ (Rom. 8:29).

Rom. 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also pre-appointed them to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

## **In Ephesians Lesson 17:**

**“... we know that He brings together for good all things, for those who love God and are called according to His purpose. For God knew His own before creation, and also pre-appointed them, that they should be spiritually shaped in the character of His Son, that He might be the first-born among a large family of brothers; and it is these, so appointed beforehand, whom He has also called. ...”**

**[Rom. 8:28–29, ~RD]**

## **10. We are laid hold of to focus on Christ.**

**Heb. 12:2, “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

**Occupation with Christ: we love Christ and His mission for us more than we love our own lives.**

**11. We are laid hold of to serve the Lord, not just Paul, but each of us.**

**Rom. 1:9, “For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,”**

**λατρεύω *latreuō***

**1 sing pres act indic  
to serve, worship**

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**λατρεία *latreia*,  
service or worship (of  
God)**

**Rom. 12:1, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.”**



**Php. 3:3, “For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,”**

**λατρεύω *latreuō***

**1 sing pres act indic  
to serve, worship**

## **12. Paul's ministry was to serve Christ as an apostle to the Gentiles.**

**Acts 9:15, “But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a choice vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. [~RD]”**

**Acts 9:16, “For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.”**

**12. Paul's ministry was to serve Christ as an apostle to the Gentiles.**

**Gal. 1:15, "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,**

**Gal. 1:16, "to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,"**

## **12. Paul's ministry was to serve Christ as an apostle to the Gentiles.**

**Eph. 3:1, “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—”**

**1 Tim. 2:5, “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,**

**1 Tim. 2:6, “who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,**

**1 Tim. 2:7, “for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.”**

**2 Tim. 1:3, “I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day,”**

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**12. Paul's ministry was to serve Christ as an apostle to the Gentiles.**

**We all are to serve the Lord in the arena of our spiritual gifts.**

**Eph. 2:10, "For we are his creative work, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we can do them."**

**Col. 4:17, "And tell Archippus, 'See to it that you complete the ministry you received in the Lord.' "**

## **Paul's focus is Christ.**

- 1. Paul has reached a level where his primary focus is no longer the self-absorption of the sin nature, but focus on Christ.**

**Php. 1:21, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”**

**Paul's focus is Christ.**

**2. Paul has reached the stage where he is able to evaluate his circumstances in terms of how God is using him to further the gospel.**



**Paul's focus is Christ.**

**3. Paul has learned Christlike humility is more important than human reputations.**

**Php. 2:7, “but [Christ] made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**

**Php. 2:8, “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.**

**Php. 2:9, “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,”**

**Paul's focus is Christ.**

**4. Paul has learned that the earthly awards and accomplishments are no better than manure in light of eternal rewards for grace-oriented pursuit of Christ.**

**Php. 3:7, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.**

**Php. 3:8, “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ**

**Php. 3:9, “and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;”**

**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,” [~NKJV]**

**Php. 3:13, “Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead,” [~HCSB]**

**λογίζομαι *logizomai***

**1 sing pres mid indic**

**to count, think, calculate**

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**καταλαμβάνω *katalambanō***

**Perfect active infinitive**

**to take, overtake, reach**

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**σκοπός *skopos***

**masc sing acc**

**(m) look into the distance;**

**target, goal**



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**διώκω *diōkō*,**

**1 P, Present Active Indicative  
run after, pursue**