

## (New Year)

### THE FORWARD LOOK. PHIL. 3:13-14

#### I. FIRST WE MUST MAKE THE INWARD LOOK.

A. TOWARD MYSELF

B. NOT MY OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT HIS, V.9-  
C. TO LOSE SELF AND GAIN CHRIST, VS.3-8,

WE SHOULD MAKE A VOTE OF "NO CONFIDENCE" IN THE FLESH.

D. THAT I MAY KNOW HIM, V.10

E. RECOGNIZING IMPERFECTION, V.12

1. YET NOT MAKING THAT AN EXCUSE FOR A LOW LEVEL OF XTN. LIVING.

2. BUT FOLLOWING AFTER, THAT I MAY APPREHEND THAT FOR WHICH

I AM APPREHENDED OF CHRIST JESUS.

#### II. THE BACKWARD LOOK (VS. 4-16)

A. FORGET THE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND. VS. 13

B. FORGETTING THE SINS, MISTAKES, FAILURES, BEFEATS —

• AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN CONFESSED AND REPENTED OF AND FORGIVEN BY THE INFINITE MERCY AND GRACE OF GOD.

B. FORGET THE PAST VICTORIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

C. BUT, DON'T FORGET JESUS, HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION,

AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU.

1. 1 COR. 11:25, THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

2. 1 PETER. 1:9, "HATH FORGOTTEN THAT HE WAS PURGED FROM HIS OLD SINS."

#### III. THEN WE ARE READY TO MAKE THE FORWARD LOOK. VS. 13

"REACHING FORTH UNTO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEFORE

A. LOOKING FORWARD INTO THE NEW YEAR

1. WHAT WE CANNOT SEE FOR CERTAIN

A. WHETHER THERE WILL BE WAR OR PEACE.

B. WHETHER THERE WILL BE PROSPERITY OR RECESSION

C. WHETHER THERE WILL BE A FULL YEAR OF LIFE FOR US PERSONALLY, OR IF GOD SHALL CALL US INTO ETERNITY BEFORE THE END OF YEAR

2. WHAT WE CAN SEE FOR CERTAIN

A. GOD'S PRESENCE IS WITH US

B. GOD'S POWER IS FOR US

C. GOD'S PROMISES ARE TO US

B. WHAT WE SHOULD LOOK FORWARD TO

1. A CLOSER WALK WITH GOD

2. A DEEPER EXPERIENCE WITH GOD

3. A LARGER LIFE IN GOD.

4. COMPLETE CONSECRATION TO GOD.

5. A FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD

6. FAITHFUL AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE FOR GOD

7. Christ's return from heaven. (VS. 20) (see below)

#### IV. THIS WILL LEAD US TO THE UPWARD LOOK. VS. 24

1. PRESS TOWARD THE GOAL FOR THE PRIZE OF THE UPWARD CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS."

A. WHAT IS THIS UPWARD CALLING?

1. HERE AND NOW WHILE ON EARTH SETTING OUR AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE, AND LIVING IN THE HEAVENLIES IN XTN. JESUS.

✓ 2. THE CALL TO MEET THE LORD, EITHER IN DEATH, OR AT HIS GLORIOUS SECOND COMING, (V.20)

B. HOW WE CAN PRESS TOWARD THIS GOAL?

1. KEEP OUR EYES ON JESUS

2. KEEP OUR HEART WARM TOWARD THE LORD.

3. KEEP OUR BODY AND MIND YELED AND CLEAN. ROM. 12:1,2.

I When Paul looked back on his own life  
He found that he could put no confidence in  
the flesh.

Someone has said that flesh symbolizes the  
whole bundle of natural desires, together  
with our natural reason, which constitutes  
the self-centered personality known to our  
forefathers as "the natural man."

This suggests that we can put no final  
trust in any purely human thought or  
achievement, since nothing human is perfect.

II When Paul looked backward on his own life  
he was reminded of this Pharisaic upbringing.  
Since he became a Christian he learned  
through bitter experience that no legalistic  
religion could save a man.

Let us try to translate into modern terms  
the dangers which lie along the path of any-  
one who associates religion with law:

(a) Outward observances of religion  
usually gain pre-eminence over a true  
spirituality because outward acts can be  
performed whether or not there is any sincere  
spirit behind them.

(b) Furthermore, when religion becomes a  
matter of living up to rules and following a  
set pattern, the minor observances can easily  
take the place of the major duties.

(c) Again, legalistic religion always di-  
vides people into superior and inferior groups,  
where the strict legalists set themselves  
apart from the life of ordinary Christian  
men and women.

(d) And when religion is oversimplified  
into a moral code, doing good gradually takes  
the place of God, and such moralism breeds  
self-deceit and hypocrisy.

revised on D# 88, 1-3-87

So. Vietnam, 31 Dec 67. *WAC Chapel Oct 78*  
Cent. Ch. Augsburg 31 Dec 64 *Herwood B.C. 12/26/82*  
H. N. 1/1/56 *Ch. #3 Ft Carson Jan 67* *St. Pete Beach 1/2/53*