

(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- *weakness of the Law -*

C. TO LOSE SELF AND GAIN CHRIST, VS. 3-8, *then Jesus' new commands*

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

D. THAT I MAY KNOW HIM, V. 10 *to be saved from myself*

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*

FORGETTING THE SINS, MISTAKES, FAILURES, DEFEATS —

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

2. I 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) Future.

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 ~~SEPARATION~~ 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. 14

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 XT. 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 YEILBED 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.

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So. Vietnam, 31 Dec 67.

WRC Chapel Oct 78

Gateway B.C. St. Pete, Jan '81

Cent. Ch. Augsburg 31 Dec. 67

Herwood B.C. 12/26/82

M.N. 1/1/56

Q.#3 Ft Carson Jan 67

St Pete Beach 1/2/83