

>>>>>> Philippians - Lesson 07 <<<<<<<

1) Ok, picking up where we left off last time in Philippians 3...

Philippians 3:8–12 (NASB 2020)

⁸ More than that, I count *all things* to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of *all things*, and count them *mere* rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ if somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already grasped *it all* or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus.

2) For verse 12, I think the phrasing of the NIV does a better job of capturing what is intended.

Philippians 3:12 (NIV)

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

3) Okay, let's take a minute and try to define what Paul has NOT grasped or obtained.

4) He mentions several things that **could** fall into this category of “things not (completely) grasped”.

**As I read these let's attach a percent complete for Paul as he writes this letter.
(where do you think he is)**

- a) He wants to gain Christ and be found in Him. **(best)**
- b) He wants to have a righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, NOT one of his own derived from keeping the Law.
 - i) To say this a little differently, how completely away from the “checklist mentality” was he (are we)?
- c) Then he mentions the three we discussed a last time ...
 - i) Wants to know Him (Christ) and the power of His resurrection.
 - ii) Wants to have the fellowship of His sufferings. **(worst)**
 - iii) Wants to be conformed to His death.
- d) And finally, he wants to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Now, I am going to read them again – this time mentally attach a percent complete for yourself personally.

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- e) He wants to gain Christ and be found in Him. **(best)**
- f) He wants to have a righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, NOT one of his own derived from keeping the Law.
 - i) To say this a little differently, how completely away from the “checklist mentality” was he (are we)?
- g) Then he mentions the three we discussed a last time ...
 - i) Wants to know Him (Christ) and the power of His resurrection.
 - ii) Wants to have the fellowship of His sufferings. **(worst)**
 - iii) Wants to be conformed to His death.
- h) And finally, he wants to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

So how did you do – as good as Paul?

- 5) If you want to share ...

Which one did you personally rate yourself the best on?

- 6) Again, if you want to share ...

Which one did you personally rate yourself the worst on?

- 7) Now we have looked at the possibilities.

So, now let’s answer the question – what had Paul not grasped – what was he pressing on to take hold of?

- 8) The point of all this is that we are never done improving.
- 9) Improving – our relationship with Christ, our dying to self, and what I really think Paul is getting at here is our mission to fulfill what Christ and God want us to do.
- 10) I think this ties back to the “working out our salvation” statement that we dealt with a week or so ago.
 - a) It is not “working to be saved” – it is instead figuring out with God’s help exactly how we are to live our lives because we are saved!
 - i) This is a daily pursuit.
 - b) I think Paul is saying here that he sees what Christ laid out in front of him and he is working to accomplish that in his life – BUT – he’s just not done yet.