



Title: Experiencing Philippians

Lesson 5

Read the introduction, the text, Reflect on them and take notes: (10) minutes

Read: Pressing toward the goal (Perfection in Christ) comes by cultivating Faithfulness/Devotion
Philippians 3:12 (NASB)

¹² Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Reflection: 1 Timothy 6:11-12 (NASB) ¹¹ But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Psalms 37:3 (NASB) ³ Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

Ask:

1. In verse 12, Paul continues his thoughts from verses 10 and 11 concerning his [Paul's] walk as an example; imploring us to know Christ and to walk in the same manner, or to be conformed to His [God] image. We must press on (pursue) those things which are of Christ in order to be conformed to His image. What is your understanding of this [pressing on]? How does this look in our day to day life?
2. What things in our life are hindering us, that we need to deal with; or need help to overcome, in order to be more like Christ (see Christ formed in us)?

Read: Obtain the high calling of God in Christ.

Philippians 3:13-14 (NASB)

¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reflection: Philippians 2:12 (NASB) ¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;
1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NASB) ²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

Ask:

1. Paul, again reminds us, that he has not attained perfection yet; before making the statement, "...one thing I do." What is your understanding of what Paul is saying / doing?
2. How does this apply to us in our daily life?
3. Are you encouraged by the message Paul is sharing? If not? why not?
4. How do you plan to reach forward, or press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?

Read: Walk in unity.

Philippians 3:15-16 (NASB)

¹⁵ Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; ¹⁶ however, let us keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.

Reflection: **Ephesians 4:13-15 (NASB)** ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Ask:

1. How do you interpret Paul's statement of, "as many as are perfect," since he [Paul] was just discussing how he had not already become perfect (verse 12)?
2. How do you explain Paul's exhortation to, "Keep living by the standard to which we have attained?" What does that mean to you; from the perspective of our Christian Walk, and how that plays out in our daily life?

Read: Follow me (My example)... As I follow Christ; and the example / pattern He set

Philippians 3:17-19 (NASB)

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Reflection: **Hebrews 8:5 (NASB)** ⁵ who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned *by God* when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NASB) ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Ask:

1. In verse 17, Paul exhorts us to join in following the example he sets for us in his Christian Walk; and also, warns us to be observant of those walking in the pattern set for us. What is your understanding as to why he [Paul] does this?
2. Why do you think Paul expresses deep sadness, to the point of tears, for those that walk with their mind set on earthly things?
3. Are there any areas in your life, which need to be aligned with the pattern set before us in our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus? If so, what areas; and how can we, as brothers and sisters in Christ aid in your life becoming conformed to the image of Christ?

Read: Glorified with Christ

Philippians 3:20-21 (NASB)

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Reflection: **Romans 8:28-30 (NASB)** ²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Ask:

1. What does Paul's statement, "For our citizenship is in Heaven" mean to you? How does that [being a citizen of Heaven] impact your identity and affect your day-to-day?
2. Paul continues with stating that we are eagerly waiting for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Are we truly, EAGERLY waiting for Christ's return? How so? What is your understanding of the meaning; and, how it plays out in your life? What then, does it look like in the body of Christ?