

## **Philippians 3b**

12 What is it Paul is saying he has not yet attained?  
Has any man? So what did Paul do about his condition?

Galatians 5:17, 2 Corinthians 7:1

To 'press on' is the Greek word *dioko* meaning to catch or grab hold of - the description is clearly of running after something to grab hold of it. It is not in Paul's possession yet, but he pursues it. Christ has grabbed hold of him that he might grab hold of the knowledge of Christ, share in his sufferings, and attain to the resurrection. Christ has caught him but was he satisfied with where he is in Christ, in his knowledge of Christ, suffering with Him?

13 "I haven't caught it yet," he is saying. "But I am doing today what needs to be done. I'm forgetting what is behind me. Everywhere I tripped in the pursuit, every time I didn't run as hard as I should of, all that is in the past. I don't need to bring it up. My focus is forward, straining with all that is in me to grab hold of this prize." What again is the prize? What does it mean to be straining forward? Luke 9:62

14 Here is that word, *dioko*, again. Paul says he keeps it up – keeps stretching forward to reach the goal. The prize is waiting and the attainment of that prize is why Christ called me heavenward. Heb 12:2, 1Cor 9:24

15 Do you consider yourself a mature Christian? This should be your view, the same as Paul's. I'm not there yet but with all I am and have. I am chasing after this goal. I like the way Paul adds that if you aren't there yet, of this mature view, God will show you. Ps 25:8,9 How does He show us we are off base? What does maturity have to do with thinking like verse 14?

16 In no way is this priority of knowing Christ and being like Him going to deter you from the fruits of the Spirit you are already walking in. The two are consistent with each other.

17 Paul gave them an example, avoiding evil, self disciplined, sharing your faith, obeying the leading of the HS, wanting Christ above all else. Some follow that example. We are to take note of those people. 1Thessalonians 1:7

18,19 IN the body! Leaders who are in it for self, but don't live it. They hurt the cause of Christ by their lack of love, promotion of self, both of which are contrary to the cross of Christ. It broke Paul's heart and should break ours too. They are not walking in the example set but by the world's pattern. Colossians 3:1

20,21 We aren't even from here. We just want to get home. Can't wait for our Savior to come pick us up and get us out of here. What a difference in what we are chasing. They are pursuing things here, we are pursuing the things of heaven. see 1:27 Remember some of the church are Roman veterans and proud of it. Paul says they are now citizens of a much greater kingdom. Omnipotent God will take charge over the affairs of all men. The same power that causes the wind and waves to obey his voice, that restores contorted limbs and nerves that never developed, that very power will transform my body. He will make it like his. 1Jn 3:2, 1Cor 15 Wow! Hey, I'm after that, not these temporal destructive delusions that only bring momentary pleasure before you deal with their consequences. Luke 12:34