

Actively and Eagerly Awaiting our Saviour: Read: Philippians 3: 12- 4:1

Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.

Self awareness in your Christian walk is good. In his pursuit of holiness, Paul knew he had not yet attained all the God has for him.

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

When Paul considers his own growth as a Christian (his becoming Christ like), he sees himself as one who shoulders responsibility and getting on with the job. Christian growth does not mean spiritual abdication.

When forgetting what is behind Paul doesn't mean forgetting God's mercies or lessons from the past but rather not dwelling on things that hinder our present effort and our future progress. Despair over past sins can make you doubt you'll ever be forgiven... or gives rise to defeatism and backward looking.

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

What is it that holds Paul's gaze? Paul tells us neither what the goal is nor the prize. Yet suddenly the earthly scene with all its strivings, sufferings and sacrifices is submerged with heavenly glory. 1 Cor 2:9 reminds us "What no eye has seen and no ear has heard nor the heart of man conceived what God has prepared for those who love him".

Paul doesn't expect us to achieve everything on our own...God's goal is this too. The aim of history is the people of God marvelling at Jesus Christ (2 Thes 1:10). Everything happens in the universe towards that goal.

And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control

Jesus came, he obeyed, he bore our judgment, our sin, he rose on the 3rd day, death defeated... one day he would return and make all things new (even our bodies) and we will worship him and marvel him.

We stand ready with the visa stamped on our passport declaring us 'citizens of heaven'... and we eagerly await our saviour who will bring everything under his control...Jesus is God and therefore has rights to bring everything under his control. God thought it fitting, beautiful and good that the one who would reign over humans, their pain and sin... should become a human before he fulfils his role of reigning judge. The one who rules should also redeem; the one who sits on the throne, calling the shots (heaven or hell) is the one who came among them first.

Jesus has all authority (Mt 28 v 18); His authority pervades all things (Col 1 v 17); He has authority over Satan (Mt 16 v 18); He has authority to give eternal life (Jn 17 v 2); His authority will last forever (Rev 11 v 15).

Who will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Your decomposing body will not be sick anymore, disabled anymore, addicted anymore or tempted anymore. You will be given a new body! Matthew 13 says that one day we will shine like the sun in the father's kingdom!!!

Some questions to choose from...

What does pursuing holiness mean to you?

Do you relate to Paul when he says he hasn't yet arrived?

What plans do you have for the summer? What can you build in to your relaxation time that will help you pursue holiness?

What in your past holds you back?

Is anyone sick? Pray to the one who has authority for healing.

What appeals to you most about getting a new body?