

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

**The Prize is
Worth it!**

Philippians 3:11-16

1967 - 2017





Philippians 3:11

- If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

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**Understanding the
significance of v. 11 is
critical to understanding
the passage.**



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**Is there is OR isn't
there a resurrection
of the dead?**

1967 - 2017



1 Corinthians 15:32

Paul Said

- If the dead are not raised, *let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.*

1967 - 2017





Philippians 3:12

- Not that I have already obtained this

‘this’ refers back to the resurrection of the dead in v. 11.

Paul is refuting those who taught Christ had already come back.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

- For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. **And the dead in Christ will rise first.**

1967 - 2017





Philippians 3:12

- Not that I have already obtained this
- or am already perfect,

**Paul has NOT been perfected.
He must press on to obtain that.**



Philippians 3:12 (ESV)

•but I **press** on
to make it my own,

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. to make to run or flee, put to flight, drive away
- II. to run swiftly in order to catch a person or thing, to run after
 - A. to press on: figuratively of one who in a race runs swiftly to reach the goal
 - B. to pursue (in a hostile manner)
- III. in any way whatever to harass, trouble, molest one
 - A. to persecute
 - B. to be mistreated, suffer persecution on account of something
- IV. without the idea of hostility, to run after, follow after: someone
- V. metaph., to pursue
 - A. to seek after eagerly, earnestly endeavour to acquire





Philippians 3:12 (ESV)

•because Christ Jesus
has made me his
own.

Has Christ
Jesus made
you His own?

1967 - 2017



John 10:27 (NET)

- My sheep listen to my voice,
- and I know them,
- and they follow me.

1967 - 2017



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**Notice Paul's pursuit of
perfection is Paul's
response to what Christ
has done for him!**





Philippians 3:12 (ESV)

•because Christ
Jesus has made me his
own.



Philippians 3:13

- **Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own.**

**Paul is repeating
himself here.**



Philippians 3:13

- **But one thing I do:**

**Paul uses the expression
one thing to show the
inseparable link between
the next two actions.**



Philippians 3:13

- But one thing I do:

**forgetting what
lies behind and
straining forward to what lies
ahead,**

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**Christians pursing Christ
CANNOT
live in the past.**





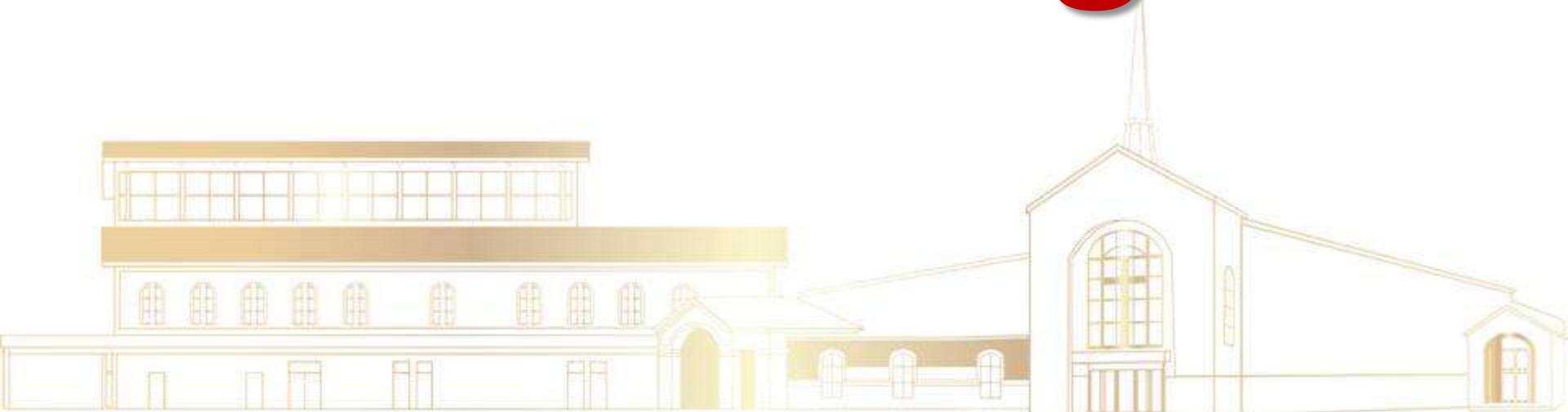
Philippians 3:13

- But one thing I do:

**forgetting what
lies behind and
straining forward to what lies
ahead,**

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**What do you
need to forget?**





Philippians 3:13

- But one thing I do:

**forgetting what
lies behind and
straining forward to what lies
ahead,**

Perhaps

- A denial of Christ

1967 - 2017



Perhaps

- A denial of Christ
- A failed marriage

Perhaps

- A denial of Christ
- A failed marriage
- An episode of indiscretion

Perhaps

- A denial of Christ
- A failed marriage
- An episode of indiscretion
- A moment of stupidity

1967 - 2017



Perhaps

- A denial of Christ
- A failed marriage
- An episode of indiscretion
- A moment of stupidity

What did Paul need to forget?

1967 - 2017





Philippians 3:13

- But one thing I do:

**forgetting what
lies behind and
straining forward to what lies
ahead,**

Living in the Past

- Is disastrous!

1967 - 2017



Living in the Past

- Is disastrous!
- Is unhealthy & unproductive!



Living in the Past

- Is disastrous!
- Is unhealthy & unproductive!
- Denies the power of God's grace.

1967 - 2017



Living in the Past

- Is disastrous!
- Is unhealthy & unproductive!
- Denies the power of God's grace.
- Interferes with enjoying the present.

1967 - 2017



Living in the Past

- Is disastrous!
- Is unhealthy & unproductive!
- Denies the power of God's grace.
- Interferes with enjoying the present.
- Keeps us from pressing forward.

1967 - 2017





Philippians 3:13

• and straining
forward to what
lies ahead,

This is an athletic metaphor.

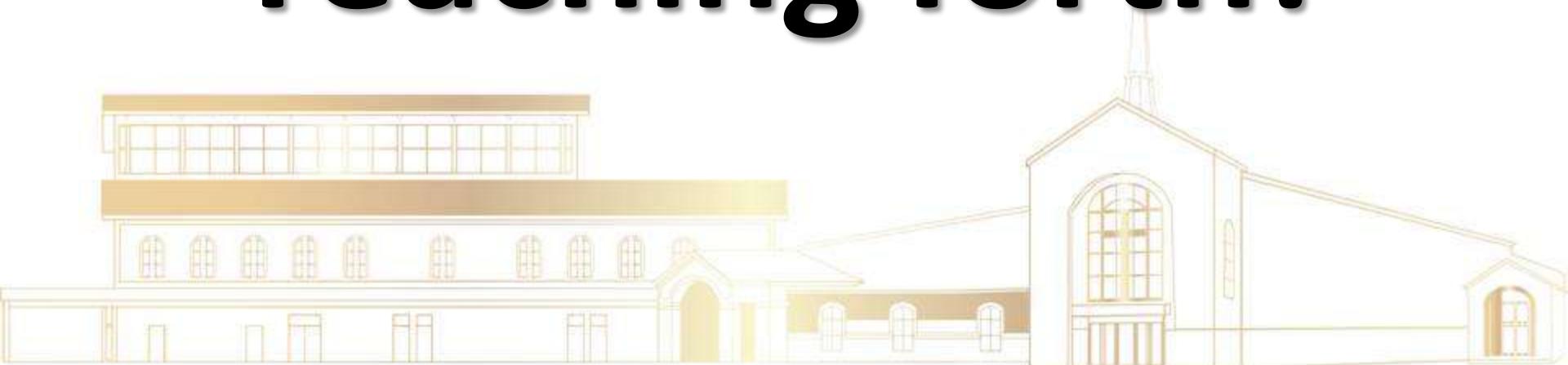


Reaching forth



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**Great Marriages
require some
reaching forth!**





Philippians 3:13

•and straining
forward to what
lies ahead,



Philippians 3:14

•I press on toward the goal
for the prize of the upward call
of God in Christ Jesus.

AV

•I press toward the mark for the
prize of the high calling of God
in Christ Jesus.



Where is she going?



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**We are supposed to live
the Christian life like a
basketball player pressing
toward the goal.**





Philippians 3:14

•I press on toward the goal
for the prize of the
upward call of God in
Christ Jesus.

AV

•I press toward the mark for the
prize of the high calling of God
in Christ Jesus.

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**Paul wants the prize!
Do you?**



There isn't a
prize for praying
the Sinner's
Prayer.

1967 - 2017



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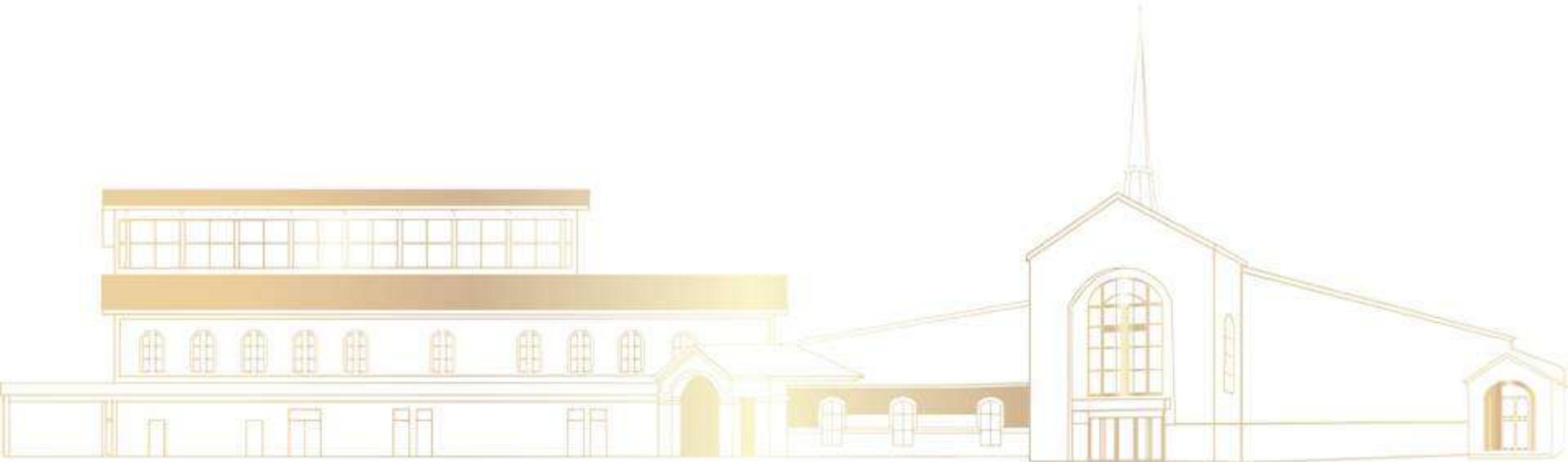
**Don't most Christians
subconsciously think
they will be
disappointed when
they get to heaven?**

1967 - 2017



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What is the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?



The Upward Call

- The upward call or high calling of God is the call of God from above to those He owns to come home.

1967 - 2017





Philippians 3:15

•Let those of us who are mature think this way,

Let me show you the NET Bible.



Philippians 3:15 (NET)

- **Therefore let those of us who are “perfect” embrace this point of view.**

**You say I am not perfect
but in Christ you are.**

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**What is the point of
view or way of
thinking Paul desires
believers to
embrace?**

1967 - 2017



Paul's Way of Thinking

- Paul wants ALL believers to embrace the perspective that the **upward call of God is the ultimate in prizes** which will make all the work, sacrifice, suffering, etc. necessary to genuinely follow Christ worth it all in the end.

1967 - 2017





Some
make
the
goal of
gold
more
than
others.





Paul's Way of Thinking

- Paul wants ALL believers to embrace the perspective that the **upward call of God is the ultimate in prizes** which will make all the work, sacrifice, suffering, etc. necessary to genuinely follow Christ worth it all in the end.

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**Why do we
struggle with this
way of thinking?**



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#1

Our lives here and now
are often quite good in
spite of some pain and
sorrow.

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#2

**Sometimes we have
doubts concerning the
reality of an afterlife.**

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Philippians 3:11

- If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

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#3

We believe a bird in the
hand is worth more
than two in the bush.

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#4

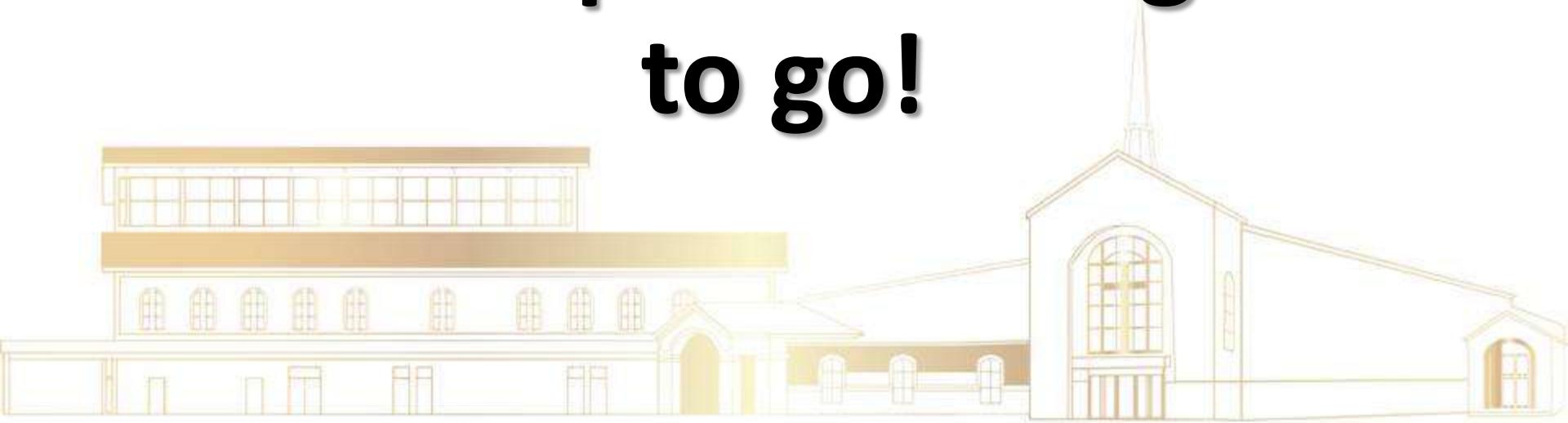
We have been assured
of something that isn't
true (i.e. bad theology).

1967 - 2017



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**We have been assured
that if I have asked Jesus in
my heart and if I have
been baptized I am good
to go!**



Finally

Look @ v. 15b





Philippians 3:15 (NET)

- **If you think otherwise,
God will reveal to you
the error of your ways.**