

20221016 PRESS ON

Philippians 3:10-21

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

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.

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

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

15 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

18 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

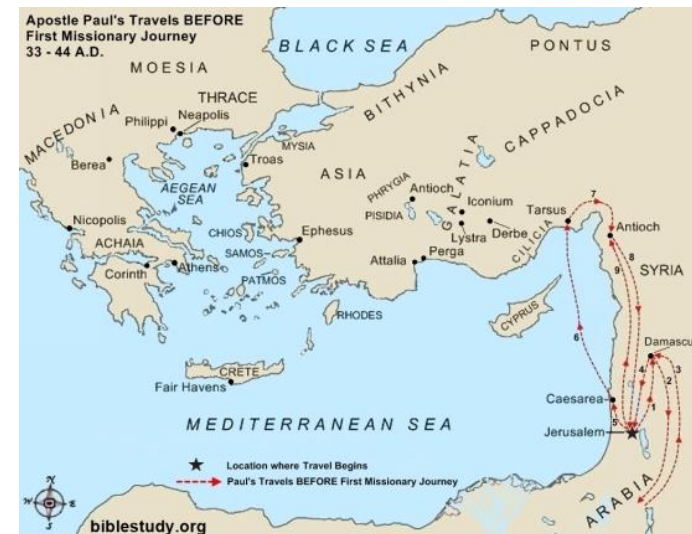
This message has three parts!

1. THE STORY OF PAUL'S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY AFTER CHRIST FOUND HIM.



Acts 22:20

²⁰ And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there **giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.**





Philippians 3:10-14

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2. THREE STAGES OF PERFECTION IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE.

1. Perfect relationship:

Colossian 2:8-10

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and **in Christ you have been brought to fullness**. He is the head over every power and authority.

2. Perfect progress:

Philippians 3:1-16

3. Completely perfect:

Philippians 3:20-21

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

3. THE NECESSITY OF SPIRITUAL TRAINING FOR CHRISTIAN LIFE.

2 Timothy 2:5

5 Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.

1. Race in 1 Corinthian 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? **Run in such a way as to get the prize.**

25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into **strict training**. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.

27 No, **I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave** so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

2. Race in Philippians 3:13-14

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

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

3. Training in 1 Timothy 4:7-10

7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.

10 That is why **we labor and strive**, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

4. Fight and race in 2 Timothy 4:7-8

7 **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**

8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will **award to me** on that day—and not only to me, but **also to all who have longed for his appearing.**

KEY POINT!

To serve our generation, what we need is **the Christians who would give all of them to the call of Christ as Paul did.** No plan, no skill, no money will work unless there are those who are fully dedicated their life to Christ and his calling.