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Philippians chapter 3 our portion this week is verses 12 through 14.

Let's pray.

Our father we thank you that you have given us Christ given yourself to us in Christ. Set yourself before us as our inheritance and as our goal. That you have given us your spirit. Who has given life to our hearts that we might turn from our sin that we might turn to you that we might rest upon Christ and believe in him.

We pray that you would help us now. As we examine these words that by them your spirit would also examine us. That he would do working us like that which the apostle here describes your spirit having done in him. And that we would. That we would be brought to strain forward and upward to be satisfied with nothing less than the Lord Jesus.

For we ask it in his name. Amen. Philippians 3 verses 12 through 14, these are God's words. Not that I have already attained. Or I'm already perfected but I press on that. I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brother. I do not count myself to have apprehended.

But one thing I do. Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. I pressed toward the draw for the prize of the upward call of God. In Christ Jesus.

Since this reading of God's inspired and inherent word.

We've already seen in this chapter that being satisfied with yourself is the exact opposite of Christianity. The Lord has set confidence in the flesh over again rejoicing in Christ Jesus in verse 3 and verse 4 and the apostle described a season of life in which he did have confidence in the flesh and the Lord actually saved him from those things that he thought he was doing that were good he has repented from dead works and now the Lord has saved him or made the, Possible righteous and adopted him and called him and dwelt him by his spirit he is giving him already that power of his resurrection and fellowship with his of Christ sufferings and being conformed to his death that we heard about last week in verse 10 and sanctification but a Christian is never satisfied with the level of sanctification that he has in this life.

He wants as he says verse 11 if I only means I may attain to the resurrection of the dead that is it that he may come into that having been made like Jesus that we will enjoy in the day of on the day of the resurrection and so he says not that I have already attained already perfected his looking forward not to just having been converted and brought to love God and today him and, And walk with him and serve him but he's looking forward to the finishing of the work remember what he told them early in this letter being confident of the fact that God who has started the work in them will bring it to completion well he's confident of that for himself and that's what he's aiming at and why is he aiming at being perfected well because that's what Jesus is aiming at?

Right, isn't that what he says in verse 12, but I press on that. I may hold of that. For which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me so if you're a believer in Jesus Christ, what do you want for yourself well first and foremost you want Jesus for yourself but as touches you and your growth and you're enjoyment of God's blessing you want for yourself what Christ wants for yourself you want for yourself what Christ wants for you.

Because your mind is being conformed to his isn't it isn't that what we've been hearing about since the beginning of chapter two having our minds conformed to the mind of Christ and Jesus didn't let hold of you just for you to be forgiven and do a little bit better than you used to do.

Jesus laid hold of you to be forgiven completely and by the time he has done or when he has done with his work in you to be cleansed completely to be conformed to him completely. To be perfected. So the apostle says yeah, I'm not satisfied with where I am in my walk with the Lord I'm grateful to God for what he's done and I'm clinging to Jesus for what he's doing and what he will have done but those guys that I was warning you against the beginning of the chapter, they're the ones who are satisfied with where they're at.

Because they aren't laying hold of Christ because Christ hasn't laid hold of them and so Jesus isn't setting the agenda for them, they're setting their own agenda. But Jesus is the one who sets the agenda for us whom he is saved and so that means that we not only look at all those things before we came to Christ and say dung which which we learned to say in verse 8, but we look at all that he's done so far and we say, The Lord has done wonderful things for me the Lord is even done wonderful things in me.

But the best is yet to come the goal is yet to come what he saved me for is the stuff that's still in front of me and that is that resurrection from the dead and what you will be like on the day of resurrection so a couple of times here in here in verse 13 and then again in verse 17, he is he's setting himself as an example and when he sets himself as the example he often interjects this word, brethren brethren my brothers.

And sisters who have not been adopted in the same Christ into the same relationship to God as his children to bear the same likeness to the only begotten son, okay, so he's not this kind of throwing up throwing in alert not throwing up a word throwing in a word by which to dress hey brother and you could just like insert pal or friend or whatever no it's it's intentional because he's going to be telling us again in a couple of verses to follow the pattern he says brethren.

I do not count myself. To have apprehended but one thing I do forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. He knows that God himself is infinitely satisfying.

He knows that Christ himself is infinitely satisfying. But he the apostle himself is not as satisfied with them as he will be and He will not be as devoted to them as He will be. And, All of us who are mature to borrow a little bit from next week need to be thinking this way and walking this way.

Grateful for what God has done so far, but straining forward to have that for which Christ has saved us. So, As we look forward not just to this week but to the rest of our lives he don't think of it in terms that I have often observed in my own heart and think that I might have detected in the way others are talking about our growth and the fact that we'll never be perfected in this world.

Aim at the fact and enjoy the fact that you are going to be perfected. And so not with the discouragement or the dejection of how poorly you think it's going so far. And not with pride about how well you think it's God so far because if you think that then you're not the mature person anyway and going very well.

But looking forward to the perfection that lays ahead because that's what Jesus saved you for. That's what he laid down his life for. That's what he poured out his spirit and made you alive for and brought you to repentance and faith for not so that you could come part way into the blessedness and the holiness.

For which he has died but so that you would have it all. So as long as Jesus is looking forward, straining forward continuing the work in your life, you need to be looking forward straining forward as he works in you. That's right.

Lord you had done so much in the apostle. Paul when he said this and we thank you that that which you had set before him was so much better that he strained forward to it. And we thank you for setting Christ before us for making us alive in Him for making us right with you in Him for adopting us as your children and him.

And we pray that you would make us to to strain forward as we walk with you and put sin to death. And as we look forward to not only being made perfect and holiness but even soul and body in the resurrection. Being made like him in every way so that we may enjoy you in every way and the new heavens and the new earth we ask that you would help us then this week neither to be discouraged nor proud but to strain forward with joy and confidence for we ask it in Jesus name amen.