



(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Oh thank you we how we thank you oh God. For telling us by your spirit in your word. Of that for which Christ has laid, hold of us. Even that we might. Fully glorify you and fully enjoy you forever. We thank you for your word, which you hold up as a mirror.

And how it always tells us the truth. And this life that we have not yet attained. But not just the truth about us but the truth about Christ. What he is like the perfection of his worthiness for us. The perfection of his character to which you are conforming us.

That we are already your children in him that when he appears we will be like him and see him. We pray that as you show us these things from your word for the rest of our lives that we would always keep pressing forward. Reaching forward toward the goal the upward call that you have given us in Christ Jesus.

We pray Lord that your spirit would help us now and the reading and hearing of your word. That he would be using it to furnish us with every good work that he would make us mature complete in Christ. And the the maturity that he gives us would be reflected in mind's.

That are like what we read in these scriptures that we've been studying. Lord say afternoons. So help us. Holy Spirit, we pray we're asking Jesus name amen. Philippians chapter 3 beginning in verse 15 and going through verse 17, these are God's words. Therefore let us. As many as our mature have this mind.

And if in anything you think otherwise. God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless to the degree that we have already attained let us walk by the same rule let us be of the same mind. Brethren. Join in following my example and note. Those who so walk. As you have us.

For a pattern.

As far the reading of God's inspirit inspired and inherent word.

So on this chapter the apostle has warned us against some really bad examples in the previous chapter he had held up Christ as the ultimate example and he'd presented some copies that Christ has been making up himself by the spirit including a copy in the apostle Paul and the copy and Timothy and a copy in a patheticus and then he talks about these bad examples the the ones who rejoice or have confidence in the flesh rather than having confidence in Christ.

And he's presented himself again as a counter to that that he who had made it as far as you could get in the flesh and until he realized that everything he thought was to his credit was actually against him and that that all of those things were lost and in order to have Christ that he still does not believe that he has attained what Christ has laid hold of him for not that I have already attained or am already perfected.

By press on that Christ has laid hold of him in order to protect him and so he presses on till they hold of that in order to perfect him so he presses on to let hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of him and so he's always pressing forward and pressing upward recognizing that for the rest of this life, he will he will still be pressing forward and pressing up.

Sanctification something that is not completed in this life and then he says therefore let us as many as our mature. Have this mind. In other words, there is no one who is mature. Who does not have this mind? The surest sign of someone who is not mature in Christ.

Jesus is someone who feels like they have made it. Because we haven't made it yet, that's what he's saying here says, I haven't made it and let as many as our mature in Christ have this same mind that they have not made it even. Problem is. We are so.

Easily self-deceived. That we can have spiritual pride about our humility. Right we think to ourselves that. That you know, all I know that I'm terrible that only Jesus is good and I'm sure you have if not have felt and recognized it in yourself at some point have seen it in others that this kind of self-deprecation this this facade this this surface of humility is actually part of how they think they've made it and so you get into these these Christian conversations and sometimes whole churches depending upon depending on how the, Preaching is and whether it's full of Christ himself or whether it's full of how we act and interact most of all and you turn.

Humility into the new work. And talking about how you don't do anything good into the the one real good thing that we do. So it's it's easy to be self-deceived about humility before God and so the that's actually a pretty precious promise in verse 15 he says therefore let us let us as many as our mature have this mind and if in anything you think otherwise you still talking to the as many as our mature or as many as think there are mature

I guess and if anything you think otherwise God will reveal even this to you.

So knowing that even in my humility to think and know that I haven't attained yet, that is imperfect. And so you're actually trusting in the Lord to keep exposing your own heart to you to keep exposing your own mind to you so that you come to realize away in which you thought you were being humble but you're really proud of being humble and expose that to you you cry out again and you turn from it and you lay hold of Christ and you know that you're laying hold of Christ because why because Christ has laid hold of you.

And he's not surprised or duped or discouraged by that self-deception that we just found out about ourselves as he and so he says if you're mature, you know maintain that mind of pressing forward and pressing upward and and if you need to have revealed to you that you are not as mature as you thought then God will reveal even this to you he's not going to let even that part of your sanctification leg.

So every believer every mature believer rather thinks that he has not attained every mature believer wants to live than in verse 16 according to whatever the Lord has done in him nevertheless to the degree that we have already attained let us walk by the same rule let us be of the same mind.

Have you ever heard someone who has yeah they've understood this this truth that the that he who began the good work in you will be perfecting it even until the day of Christ Jesus as I said, they've understood this truth that we never arrive in this life and then they turn around they say they act as if well therefore it doesn't really matter what Christians do.

Yeah, we're not going to be perfect in this life. I hear the phrase and it sticks in my mind because of a manager that I had working for McDonalds and as an undergraduate who was very vocal about how Christian he was we also had a foul mouth and he hit on all the young girls that worked at the McDonald's and confronted him once and he said well James I'm not perfect.

I'm just forgiven. Well. You take the truth that we have not attained yet to perfection. But you don't use it as an excuse to walk according to your flesh because Christ has started a work in you and he has helped you to modify sin to some extent thus far and he has worked out the life of Christ in you to some extent thus far and whatever he has done in you you should rejoice in and walk in.

Not using the fact that we're not gonna be perfect in this life as some excuse for sinfulness. And so he knows how this this truth from verse 15 is going to be abusing he says nevertheless. To the extent that we have already attained yet. God hasn't done nothing in you let us walk by the same rule and the same thing with theology ever had theological discussions with people we none of us are going to have perfect theology in this life.

And they use that as code language for just you know agree to disagree and everything's minor except for I love Jesus, but then there's a question well what does it mean to love and who are you and who is Jesus? Guys that's theology, right so he says nevertheless to the group that we have already attained morality matters to the degree that we have already attained theology matters nevertheless to agree that we have to the degree we have already attained let us walk by the same rule let us be of the same mind brethren join and following my example, okay, so there are material and he is he is calling the whole church now to follow his example, he says, I'm, Mature in Christ which means, I haven't attained but it does mean that I am walking by the rule of Christ so far as I know and I'm thinking according to the word of Christ so far as I know so far as the Lord has brought me and all of you are to do as you see me doing in my walk with Christ and know those who so walk so there are the apostle and then the other mature ones in verse 15 and then he refers to them all in verse 17 as brethren and he says God has set examples in front of you it's kind of like what he does.

In Hebrews 11 and Hebrews 12, remember he's going to go into Hebrews 12 and he's going to say he's going to say work hard don't despise the chasing of the Lord he is producing in you holiness, you know, straighten your straighten your knees and strengthen your hands and press press forward and don't despise the the discipline that produces in you the peaceful fruit of righteousness and the holiness without which we won't see the Lord but he does that just after having given examples for all.

Of chapter 11 of how God has maintained saints by faith and he has gotten them there and they are in glory now and they didn't receive in this life what God had planned for them because it's God's wisdom that apart from us who are still on the way that they wouldn't be perfect and so there you haven't come into the resurrection yet and so.

Glad gives us examples both dead from the past and living now of those in whom the work of grace has begun and has progressed and even has come into a maturity in which they haven't yet attained but they're walking according to the word and they are thinking according to the word to the extent that God has granted them and he gives us patterns for that.

And we shouldn't be ashamed to say there's a mature believer that I would like to walk in the same way because the same grace that gave that believer faith in the same grace that has mentored that believer in faith is the grace by which you have been brought to faith and the grace that is maturing you and it's a grace that is in Jesus Christ and so as you press for it, and as you press upward it has God who is calling you even unto the perfection of Jesus and he will not stop that work until he has completed it.

Just it's good and right to have Christian heroes so far as you understand that well so far as the ones who are your heroes or those who know that they have not attained right and are mature and so far as you understand that that's part of mentoring is always pressing forward and always pressing upward as the apostle and as many

as our mature also do.

Let's pray that God would do that in for us.Or our father in heaven we pray that as you have called us unto yourself in your son and unto the perfection of your son that those whom you knew ahead of time and love you predestined not merely that we would be forgiven but that we would be conformed to the image of your son so that at the last he would be the firstborn among many brethren.

We thank you for the certainty of the end that this upward call that you have given us as given us.And we pray Lord that you would continue maturing us. Lord we thank you for those whom you have said among us who are always straining forward and upward with joy and confidence that at the last you will bring them there.

And we pray Lord that you would help us to note those who walk in that way and to imitate them and we pray Lord that as your spirit matures us we would be those.Who walk that way.And the others might know that your grace works that your grace not only works to bring us to faith for forgiveness.

But that your grace works to cleanse us from all unrighteousness makes us to bear the fruit of your spirit.Makes us to look like Christ.We pray that you would glorify Him, but continuing this work in each one of us in his name amen.