



# KING'S CHAPEL

## Daily Devotional - Philippians Study

Week 4 - Day 4

### Approaching God

#### Read Psalm 103:1-8

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" Look back through your life - Do you see the benefits you have received? Family perhaps? A teacher or two? Friends? What else do you have to be grateful for? Do you recognize any coincidences in your life, which turned out to be God-incidents? What are the things that have turned out well?

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Have you experienced God's mercy and graciousness? How has God been gracious to you? Today, consciously spend some time blessing, or praising God. In these first moments of prayer, give thanks to God for His love.

### Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Philippians 3:12-16

**Slowly & carefully read the passage 2 or 3x's before taking notes & answering questions**

*Paul wants to head off any idea that once you have become a mature Christian you have "arrived" in the sense there is no more traveling to do. He gently warns against a super-spiritual view of Christianity which imagines that the full life of the age to come can be had in the present, without waiting for the resurrection. Paul is quite clear he has not arrived; nor has anyone else.*

#### Philippians 3:12-16

**12** Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. **13** Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **15** Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. **16** Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

**Start with Engaging the Text:** Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. Which words or phrases stand out to you as significant?

## Daily Study Questions

Continue trying the A.B.C. method for studying & meditating on a passage of scripture. The questions below are meant to help you get familiar with this method.

### To Study the Passage:

- What are some things you learn or observe about God in this passage? (Father, Son, Holy Spirit?)
- What might this passage reveal about you, your neighbor, human nature, people?
- Are there any commands to be obeyed or things to be avoided, or examples to follow?

*Now choose the verse or truth that is most striking and helpful to you so far. Paraphrase the thought or verse in your own words.*

### Meditation & Reflection Questions

- How would believing this truth or taking it seriously change your life? If it were fully alive and effective in your innermost being - what might be different?
- Why might God be showing you this truth today? What might be going on in my life that he would bring this to my attention?

### Close in Prayer:

**Rejoice:** - What 1 or 2 things can you praise and rejoice in from today's study?

**Repent:** - What 1 or 2 things do you need to confess and ask for forgiveness?

**Request:** - What 1 or 2 things do you want to ask God for today as a result of your study?

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## Resources for Further Study

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### Commentary on Philippians 3:12-16

Paul's Progress in the Gospel: Through Christ, Not the Law. Paul emphasizes the need for progress in Christian living, presenting himself as one who continually reaches ahead to see God's kingdom expanded.

**3:12-** It is possible that some in Philippi taught the doctrine of perfectionism stating that a Christian could be fully sanctified or spiritually made new, without sin, in this life. It may be that Paul wrote these next verses to correct their false teaching. Paul is clear; he has not been perfected yet. He has not been fully sanctified or glorified. He has not fully gained Christ yet. He has not been fully resurrected spiritually or conformed to Christ's death and life. He still has a ways to go and he is still running hard after it. He is not resting easy, trying to ride the wave of his own past accomplishments. He is pressing forward like a runner or a soldier.

He wants to take hold of the very thing that Christ originally took hold of him. Christ takes hold of us, initiating our salvation, for the purpose of forgiving and justifying us, but also with the purpose of making us holy and intimate with Him. Christ' goal for Paul's life and Paul's goal for his life are one in the same. This is a guaranteed way to reach the goals you set in life.

**3:13-** He restates the same idea from verse 12. He is sure that he is not yet glorified. He has not yet obtained all the knowledge of Christ. He is not yet perfectly conformed to Christ's image. He keeps straining, literally, "agonizing" ahead. As 2:12 shows us there is much difficulty in working out our salvation and persevering until the end. He adds one thing in this verse. He says that he is forgetting what is behind. There are some right ways to remember the past. Remembering God's past faithfulness can encourage us that He will be faithful again. The Psalmist often remembered the exodus of the Israelites to this end. There is also a right way to remember our former sin to keep us humble. Paul is saying that he does not remember the past in any way that would keep him from pressing on. He does not remember his past missionary accomplishments or victories over sin in such a way that would make him lie down and quit pressing on because of overconfidence. Nor does he remember his past sins in a way that would lead to oppressive guilt and a soul of despondency that can not move on in hope.

**3:14-** He is pressing on for the prize of full intimacy with Christ in glory. This is our prize that we should be racing towards. This is God's goal for us. He did not just call us to get us out of hell. He wants us to experience the full joy of His presence unhindered in heaven for eternity.

**3:15-** Paul calls for all believers who are fully developed to agree with his teachings, specifically on the false doctrine of perfectionism. He tells them that if they still disagree with his teaching on this issue or on any other that they should patiently wait and be open, and God will correct their thinking in time. This should offer all believers hope that when we are confused on doctrinal issues, the Lord will help us. This is not a promise that He will make all things clear. But if it is something that we need to understand in this life, and we stay humble and teachable, God's Spirit will make it clear to us.

**3:16-** In the meantime, while there is still some doctrinal confusion, just remain faithful to all that you actually understand. Do what you know to do. That is all that can be expected of you. Many believers get caught up in wanting to know more, and searching for answers to strange questions while they are not faithful in practicing all that they already understand. God wants us to be both hearers and doers of the Word.