**HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Philippians 3:13-17**

[**13**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-3-13/)**Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,**

[**14**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-3-14/)**I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

[**15**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-3-15/)**Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.**

[**16**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-3-16/)**Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.**

[**17**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-3-17/)**Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*It’s my desire for each of you to have a Happy New Year for the entire year, but in order to do that, you must have this mindset.**

**1. A Dissatisfaction Mindset**

 **a. Be dissatisfied with your Failures.**

 **b. Be dissatisfied with your Faults.**

 **c. Be dissatisfied with your Fetters.**

**\*\*Things will not change in your life until you get dissatisfied with some things to the point you change it!**

**2. A Devoted Mindset**

 **a. Be devoted to Christ.**

 **b. Be devoted to Church.**

 **c. Be devoted to Christianity.**

**3. A Directed Mindset**

 **a. Keep your heart directed to strive for Holiness.**

 **b. Keep your heart directed to strive for Heaven.**

**4. A Determination Mindset**

 **a. Be determined to be Like Christ.**

 **b. Be determined to be Loving Christ.**

**\*\*Too many times we get more determined in our walk with Christ and closer to the Lord when things are wrong instead of when everything is just right.**

**5. A Disciplined Mindset**

 **a. Be disciplined enough to Correct some things in your life to meet God’s standard’s.**

 **b. Be disciplined enough to Control some things in your life to meet God’s standard’s.**

**\*\*It takes all 5 of these – Dissatisfaction, Devotion, Direction, Determination, and Discipline – in order to live for the Lord and Have A Happy New Year!**

**\*\*Like I said, I want each of you to have a happy new year, so take a look with me at some things surrounding your life. If you will just look for a moment with me, listen to the Lord, and follow His will and His plan, I know you will Have A Happy New Year!**

**I. TAKE A LOOK AT THE PAST**

**Philippians 3:13a Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended:**

**\*\*Paul took a look back at his life and said that there were some things he had failed to apprehend (to obtain or seize or grasp) in his life. In other words, he had failed in some things just like we all have.**

**\*\*But here is the important thing for you to do like Paul did . . .**

 **A. Review and Look concerning your Past**

 **1. Is your past Sorrowful?**

 **2. Is your past Shattered?**

 **3. Is your past Successful?**

 **4. Is your past Spiritual?**

 **5. Is your past Special?**

**\*\*Be honest about your past and take a close look at what you were and what you are now.**

 **B. Remember and Learn concerning your Past**

 **1. Learn to Abandon the Sorrow, the Shameful, and the Sinful.**

 **2. Learn to Adore the Savior, the Spirit, and the Service.**

**\*\*Do not let Satan or anyone else tell you that you cannot escape your sorrowful, shameful, and sinful life – that’s a lie! You can live in His Son, in His Spirit, and in His Service.**

 **C. Repent and Leave concerning your Past**

**Philippians 3:13b but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind,**

 **1. Forsake those things that are Behind**

 **2. Forget those things that are Behind**

**Hebrews 12:1 let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

**Illustration: A wise preacher stood before his congregation and told a joke. They all burst into laughter. Immediately, he told the joke again. That time only a few chuckled. He immediately told the joke again, and the audience reacted with only a few smiles. He immediately told the joke again. However, this time no one laughed, no one chuckled, and no one smiled. He then said this. Since you are no longer laughing at a joke that you have only heard four times, then why are you still crying over past mistakes that the devil keeps reminding you of over and over again? Why don’t you forget those things that are behind and reach for the things that are before you?**

**\*\*Paul said that he had taken a look at his past and saw that he had come short and not apprehended some things. However, he also concluded that the best thing he could do was just forget about what was behind and reach for what was ahead for the glory of God! If you want a Happy New Year, you’ll do the same!**

**II. TAKE A LOOK AT THE PRESENT**

**Philippians 3:13c – 14 and reaching forth unto those things which are before,** [**14**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-3-14/)**I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

**\*\*Let’s look at the present together and honestly answer these questions:**

 **A. How Do We Live?**

 **1. Do we please the Lord with our Actions?**

 **2. Do we please the Lord with our Attitude?**

 **3. Do we please the Lord with our Activities?**

**\*\*If we would only live our lives to please the Lord with our actions, attitudes, and our activities, a lot of our problems would disappear and we could have a Happy New Year!**

 **B. How Do We Labor?**

**Philippians 3:13c reaching forth unto those things which are before,**

 **1. Let our Labor cause us to Reach**

**\*\*Before us are Friends, Family, Foes, and Faith that we can reach for!**

 **2. Let our Labor cause us to React**

 **a. Let’s React to the Call of God**

 **b. Let’s React to the Commands of God**

 **3. Let our Labor cause us to Rejoice**

 **a. Rejoice over the Blessings of our Labor**

 **b. Rejoice over the Benefits of our Labor**

 **C. How Do We Love?**

 **1. Do we love this Christ as we should?**

 **2. Do we love this Church as we should?**

 **3. Do we love these Christians as we should?**

 **4. Do we love the Carnal as we should?**

**\*\*Do you want a Happy New Year really? Then make sure the way you’re living is Christ-like, your labor is Christ-like, and your love is Christ-like!**

**III. TAKE A LOOK AT THE PRIZE**

**Philippians 3:14** [**14**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-3-14/)**I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

**\*\*We can have a Happy New Year if we . . .**

 **A. Partake of the High Calling**

**1. Answer the High Call which is accepting God’s Salvation 2. Answer the High Call which is accepting God’s Son**

 **B. Partake of the Holy Calling**

 **1. The Holy Calling is to live Spirit-filled**

 **2. The Holy Calling is to live Sanctified**

 **3. The Holy Calling is to live Separated**

 **C. Partake of the Heavenly Calling**

**\*\*How can you partake of the Heavenly Calling?**

 **1. Keep your eyes on the Savior!**

 **2. Keep your eyes on the Sky!**

**\*\*We could have a Happy New Year if we would only keep in our hearts and minds that the Lord is watching us and could come back any day and live like it’s the last day of our lives!**

**IV. TAKE A LOOK AT THE PERFECTIONIST**

**\*\*Keep in mind that no one is perfect, but those who are saved have a perfected heart because Jesus lives in their hearts.**

**\*\*Also remember there’s nothing wrong is striving to be a perfectionist! Paul is saying we can strive to be perfectionists in our Christian walk.**

 **A. Notice the Mind of the Christian Perfectionist**

**Philippians 3:15-16** [**15**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-3-15/)**Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.**

[**16**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-3-16/)**Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.**

 **1. Focus on Perfecting your Christian Walk**

 **2. Focus on Perfecting your Christian Ways**

 **B. Notice the Mark of the Christian Perfectionist**

**Philippians 3:17b mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example.**

 **1. Keep your Eyes on their Steps**

 **2. Keep your Ears on their Speech**

 **C. Notice the Mimicking of the Christian Perfectionist**

**Philippians 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.**

 **1. Mimic their Language**

**Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**

 **a. Make your conversations more about Heaven.**

 **b. Make your conversations more about Holiness.**

 **2. Mimic their Looks**

**Philippians 3:21a Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,**

 **a. Look like a Glorious Christian**

 **b. Look like a Godly Christian**

**CLOSE**

**\*\*Do you really want to have a Happy New Year?**

**1. Then take a look at the Past**

 **(Look at it, Learn from it, and Leave it)**

**2. Then take a look at your Present**

 **(Ask yourself: How do I live, labor, and love right now and how do I do it better this coming year?)**

**3. Then take a look at the Prize**

 **(Be determined to take a hold of the High Calling, the Holy Calling, and the Heavenly Calling)**

**4. Then take a look at the Perfectionist**

 **(Mark them, Mind them, and Mimic them)**

**\*\*Do you really want to have a Happy New Year? Then prove it by coming to this altar and doing what is necessary to have a happy new year.**