

# Chesswood Baptist Church

**Where Everybody is Somebody**

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 17, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **PHILIPPIANS 3:13-21**

**Philippians 3:14, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

### 1. BACKGROUND

- a. Today I will be preaching from the **Book of Philippians**, written by the Apostle Paul between AD 60 and AD 62.
- b. I take the position that this Epistle was written from prison in Rome where Paul wrote three other Epistles.
- c. Those Epistles being **Ephesians**, **Colossians**, and **Philemon**.
- d. This Epistle, from Paul to the Philippians, was written to believers in Europe in the city of Philippi.
- e. This letter came as a wonderful testimony of Paul's relationship with the Philippian church.
- f. As a matter of fact, it seems this church was closer to the Apostle Paul than any of the other churches he planted.
- g. Their love for him was so strong and his response to that love is reflected throughout this Epistle.
- h. Philippians deals with Christian experience at a level on which all believers should enjoy. **John 10:10, The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**
- i. We will find out today how to live this abundant life.
- j. This type of abundant living is where the Lord Jesus Christ wants each believer to be continually as we journey through this life. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Rejoice evermore. 17: Pray without ceasing. 18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**
- k. Paul visited Philippi on his second missionary journey.
  1. He was traveling with Barnabas on the first missionary journey as they went into Galatia territory.
  2. They were a wonderful missionary team and founded many churches despite all the persecution they encountered.
  3. Paul attempted to visit these churches on his second missionary journey; however, Barnabas wanted to take his nephew John Mark, but John Mark

- turned back for some reason on the first missionary journey and Paul did not think it was a good idea to include him.
4. This conflict split this missionary team and Paul took Silas and Barnabas took John Mark and they went in different directions. The mission of each team was highly effective, and God used them mightily.
  5. It seems that Paul intended to widen the missionary circle that he encountered on his previous missionary journey because of the great population and the highly civilized inhabitants.
  6. Actually, the Greek culture and Greek learning was centered there.
  7. Dr. Luke records in the **Book of Acts** Paul's attempt to go south into the providence of Asia of which Ephesus was the leading city.
  8. When Paul attempted to go south the Spirit of God put a roadblock in his way. **Acts 16:6**, *Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia.*
  9. *We are to never question the timing of Almighty God; He is always on time.*
  10. Although he could not go south, Paul thought he would travel north, however God had other plans.
  11. **Acts 16:7**, says, *After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.*
  12. So we see Paul neither could go south nor could he go north. He came from the east so there was only one direction left for him to travel and that was west.
  13. He went west as far as Troas, to go further would have required him to board a ship so Paul waited there for instructions from God. **Acts 16:8**, *And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.*
  14. *Sometimes we feel like God has forsaken us when He requires us to wait. Remember His grace is sufficient. **2 Corinthians 12:9**, And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*
  15. I can tell you from previous experience, we must learn to wait on the Lord.
  16. The Bible says in **Isaiah 40:31**, *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*
  17. *We must continue to do what God has called us to do in our particular locale as we wait on further instructions from Him as did the Apostle Paul.*
  18. The orders from God finally came by a vision in the night. **Acts 16:9-10**, *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. **10: And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.***
  19. Paul and his companions, Silas, Timothy, and Dr. Luke boarded a ship and took off for the continent of Europe.
  20. What a blessing it was to see that God had called the Apostle Paul to

preach the Gospel in Europe. **Acts 16:12**, *And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.*

- l. Paul's first encounter in Philippi is recorded in **Acts 16:13-15**, *And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. **14:** And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. **15:** And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*
- m. Paul's first convert was not a man of Macedonia but was in fact a woman named Lydia holding a prayer meeting down by the river.
- n. Prayer is a powerful tool and it is great that Paul was able to be under girded with prayer as this woman was a great encouragement to him.
- o. Lydia was now a member of the Philippian church, since she had been saved and scripturally baptized.
- p. There were also other members of this church worthy of note.
  - 1. There was a girl who was delivered from demon possession. **Acts 16:16-18**, *And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: **17:** The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. **18:** And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.*
  - 2. Another member of this church was a Philippian jailer whom Paul and Silas had witnessed to. They were in jail because this woman who had a demon brought her master much income. After salvation, this master being deprived of his income threw Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail. **Acts 16:19**, *And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, **Acts 16:23-24**, And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely: **24:** Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.*
  - 3. God intervened and the jailer was miraculously saved. **Acts 16:29-31,34**, *Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, **30:** And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? **31:** And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. **34:** And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.*
  - 4. We are told later about Paul being arrested in Jerusalem and the Philippian church losing sight of him for two years, the minute they found out he was in prison in Rome, they immediately called their pastor Epaphroditus and dispatched him to that location. He finally returned to

Philippi bearing the Epistle to the Philippians. **Philippians 4:18**, *But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.*

- q. Paul wrote this Epistle to thank the church and express his love towards them; he had no doctrine to correct in this church as he did in the Epistle to the Galatians, neither was there any confusion of doctrine to address as had been in the church of Corinth.
- r. There was only a small ripple in the stream in the Philippian church that involved two woman who were having problems, and Paul spoke to that issue not considering it a very serious matter but he did straightened it out and challenged them to be like-minded, putting their eyes on the Lord and His Work and not the circumstance. **Philippians 4:2**, *I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.* The use of the Preserved Word of God by the Apostle Paul is a great example of how to handle problems in the local church.
- s. His letter to the Philippian believer is a great Epistle espousing Christian experience and we will be considering this today at some length.
- t. Several additional themes contained in this mighty book are:
  - 1. A quitter never wins. A winner never quits.
  - 2. What goes into our mind comes out in our actions. **Romans 12:2**, *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
  - 3. God never fails; He is always right on time.
  - 4. Lasting joy comes only through a relationship and fellowship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Psalms 51:12**, *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*
  - 5. Christians also have problems, but Christ has the power to overcome each and every one of them as we turn to Him for guidance. **1 Corinthians 10:13**, *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* **Colossians 2:10**, *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*
  - 6. We have no basis for pride; our perfect example is reflected **in the mind of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ** who gives us the perfect solution.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message May 17, 2020

## 3. EIGHT POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

k. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended:

- 1. **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,*
- 2. *I count not myself to have apprehended:* - he made a lot of mistakes in the past, he persecuted the church. He never got over that. He called himself the chief of sinners. **1 Timothy 1:15**, *This is a faithful saying, and*

**worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**

3. The Christian life is a complicated process. We must realize that sometimes we are going to get blown off track.
4. We need to gird ourselves and realize who the Saviour is, realize we have been purged from our old sins and move out to do a work for God. **2 Peter 1:5-9**, *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6: And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7: And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8: For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9: But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*
5. It is especially important that we forget those things which are behind and press toward the mark of the high calling.
6. We are to live in anticipation that one of these days He is coming back. **Titus 2:13**, *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

**I. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

1. **Philippians 3:14**, *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*
2. Paul considers a comparison with track stars. He might have had in mind the Olympic games in Ephesus, who drew 100,000 people.
3. Paul is using a figure of speech here. *the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*
4. This prize will be our rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
5. *Are you aware that you need to be working for the Saviour? Not for your salvation but after you are saved it should be evidence that you know the Saviour.*
6. I want to emphasize **Ephesians 2:8-9**, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
7. After we receive eternal life, we should be out working for God.
8. There is no room in the local church for spectators.
9. When we come into the Lord's presence, we do not want to be ashamed. **1 John 2:28**, *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*
10. I do not want to be ashamed. Also, I do not want a cabin in the corner of Glory land; I want Him to say **Matthew 25:21**, *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*
11. At Chesswood Baptist Church we are attempting to develop hundred-fold Christians. **Mark 4:8**, *And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some*



*sixty, and some an hundred.*

**m. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded:**

1. **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.*
2. Perfection means we are to go on to maturity. We are not to remain a babe in Christ nursing on milk instead of the solid meat of the Word of God. **Hebrews 5:13**, *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.* **14:** *But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*
3. There are many believers who have sat in church for a long time they still do not know what is taught in scriptures. We should be solid in our faith.
4. We need to know what we believe and why we believe it.
5. Would there be enough evidence, if you were convicted and accused of being a Christian, to convict you of being a Christian?
6. *God shall reveal even this unto you.* – Some believers say they do not know what the will of God is. If you will seek His will and listen to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit, you will know exactly what direction God wants you to go.
7. **John 6:29**, *Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*

**n. Whereto we have already attained,**

1. **Philippians 3:16**, *Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.*
2. Paul is encouraging the believer concerning the racetrack.
3. He will put them on the track and tell them to press toward the mark.
4. In this life we are to be a star for God.
5. Are you a star for Jesus my friend?

**o. Brethren, be followers together of me,**

1. **Philippians 3:17**, *Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.*
2. Paul says to watch him. We should be able to say to the young converts in Christ, watch us.
3. Believers must understand that we are in a glass house. People expect a lot more of us than we can produce.
4. We can grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. We can be solid in the faith. We must not violate clear-cut verses in the Scriptures that say forsake not the assembling ourselves together. **Hebrews 10:25**, *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*
5. Paul is our example. We are to continue steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine.
6. We need to be a part of a Bible believing church where the Word of God is preached and transport the church to the community and get our eyes off what people say and do and on to what Jesus would have us to do.

**p. Whose end is destruction,**

1. **Philippians 3:18-19**, *(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)*
2. God lays out some very strict things; cutting things if you will.
3. There are so many professing Christians; God says there is no middle of the road.
4. We are either on one side or the other. **Matthew 6:24**, *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*
5. We are either on God's side or we are on the devil's side.
6. When we are not on His side, we are enemies of the cross. *the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction.*
7. **1 John 2:15**, *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
8. **James 2:26**, *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James 2:17-18, Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18: Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*
9. Works do not save us. Faith comes alone. After there is saving faith there should be works involved.

**q. For our conversation is in heaven;**

1. **Philippians 3:20**, *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*
2. The Bible tells us we are seated in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 1:3**, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*
3. We should not have to make a long dissertation that we are a Christian. It should reflect in our testimony.
4. There is going to be a rapture. Enoch was a type of rapture of the church. Enoch was taken out of the world before the flood. There are two groups of people: people of the Tribulation Period and the 144,000 will go through that period. He has promised the true church **Revelation 3:10**, *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*
5. God will not allow His bride to go through this awful period.
6. The Lord gives us the assurance that He preserves the saint. **Psalms 37:28**, *For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.*
7. Upon conversion the flesh is not saved, it is the soul. We get a new nature that comes to live within us. The body will be redeemed at the Second Coming of Christ as reflected in the next point.

**r. Who shall change our vile body,**

1. **Philippians 3:21**, *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*
2. Our vile bodies indicate that we are not ready to enter Heaven. We will be changed in a moment in a twinkling of an eye. **Romans 8:23**, *And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52: In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*
3. A little nugget: I have heard people say often that when Gabriel blows the trumpet. Well there is no indication in the Preserved Word of God, that Gabriel is the one who blows the trumpet.
4. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* – This does not say with the trump of Gabriel.
5. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself will be the one who will call us. **Revelation 1:10**, *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,* this is the voice of the glorified Christ as of a trumpet.
6. **Revelation 3:20**, *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*
7. The invitation is Come and Dine. I love that song we sang several Sunday ago. Come and dine the Master calleth.
8. **1 John 3:2**, *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*
9. There is no question that the Lord Jesus Christ is going to come back for His own. **Philippians 3:20**, *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*
10. That was Paul's hope. That is my hope and that should be your hope for the future.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour? If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, today needs to be your day of salvation.
- b. My friend, come to Jesus right now.
- c. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- d. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- e. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the*



*mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

- f. Would you please stand?

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