



Scripture for the week of September 13: Philippians 3:7-17

“7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. 15 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained. 17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.”

Sunday, September 13:

Action: Read above Scripture slowly (even if it is very familiar to you).

Questions to Ponder: What stood out for you as you read this Scripture? What do you hope to be reminded of as you focus on this Scripture this week? Are you willing to press on in your faith? What would this take?

Prayer: Lord, there is so much in this Scripture that I need to work on. Teach me as I walk through this week focusing on this Word from You. Guide me into Your truth for my life.

Monday, September 14:

Action: Read Philippians 3:7-8: “7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage that I may gain Christ ...”

Questions to Ponder: What things have you considered a loss because your faith in Jesus has become even stronger? Are any of those losses things you believed in and now have a different opinion about as you gain Christ? Do you realize that throwing these things out has drawn you closer to salvation in Christ? Do you see this as worth it?

Prayer: Jesus, it is worth it to really know You. Guide me so that I can continue to know You more deeply, to hear Your voice and to be obedient to You and Your word.

Tuesday, September 15:

Action: Read Philippians 3:9-11: “9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.”

Questions to Ponder: Do you see that even Paul desired to know Christ personally, to have Christ dwell within him and to experience the power of the resurrected Christ, which is given through Christ’s Holy Spirit? Have you seen the power of the resurrected Christ in your life? If not, do you desire this? What will you do about it?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I desire to know You personally, to have You dwell in me and to experience the power of the resurrected Christ. I especially need this now as we continue to live in uncertain times. Experiencing You this way will help me to be less anxious and also help me to trust You in the midst of this. I need You more than ever Lord.

Wednesday, September 16:

Action: Read Philippians 3:12: “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”

Questions to Ponder: Did you realize that Christ Jesus took hold of you first? Do you see that Paul says that he desires to take hold of Christ the way Christ took hold of him? What would this look like? Do you really know that when we have a difficult time taking hold of Jesus, that His grip is strong on us and that He will not let us slip out of His hands? How does that make you feel? Do you desire this kind of relationship?

Prayer: Jesus, I now see the kind of desires that Paul had for more of You. If I don't have that kind of relationship with You, burn in me a desire to find ways to draw closer to You. Help me to press on.

Thursday, September 17:

Action: Read Philippians 3:13-14: “13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Questions to Ponder: Do you see that Paul desires to forget what is behind? How well do you do at this? Can you look toward what is ahead? How well do you do at pressing on? Do you desire full fellowship with Christ? Do you see that Paul wants to actively pursue what is ahead? Do you see this as sitting back and doing nothing?

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the example You have given me of Paul. He too struggled with His relationship with You but also we see His heart for You. Help me to be more like Paul, actively pursuing after You.

Friday, September 18:

Action: Read Philippians 3:15: “All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.”

Questions to Ponder: Who are the mature Christians? Do you think Paul is referring to those who forget what is behind and strain towards what is ahead? Do you see looking back as useless, even harmful? Do you consider yourself to be a mature Christian? Are you willing to look to God to show you this teaching of Paul's is correct?

Prayer: God in all things, I desire You to make clear to me what Your word says. Sometimes I read Your word and wonder if I am understanding it correctly. Give me a sense of peace when I am reading Your word correctly and also place in me a check in my Spirit when I should do more research on what You are trying to say to me.

Saturday, September 19:

Action: Read Philippians 3:16-17: “16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained. 17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.”

Questions to Ponder: How difficult is it for you to live up to what you have already attained? Or do you keep backsliding? Do you look for people in your life that live as God's word says to live? Do you try to turn to them when you are struggling in your faith? Are you making sure you connect with people who can encourage you in your faith as we walk through these times? Do you recognize the importance of keeping in touch with others as you stay close to home during this time of pandemic?

Prayer: Lord, I am sorry that I sometimes find myself taking two steps forward in my relationship with You and then three steps backwards. Help me to be more consistent in my walk with You. Bring people in my life who will encourage me in my faith journey.