

Impact 3:16

Let Us Hold True

(Php 3:8-16)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on 3:16 that should have a great impact on our lives as Christians.
 - a. Last week we examine **Ep 3:16**.
 - i. **Ep 3:16** “that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being”¹
 - ii. It is here Paul starts the process of telling the brethren at Ephesus what is needed for the church at Ephesus to fulfill the eternal plan of making known to all the mystery.
 - b. Today we will look at **Ph 3:16**.
 - i. **Ph 3:16** “Only let us hold true to what we have attained.”
3. Background on our text.
 - a. Paul in the letter to the brethren at Ephesus wanted them to know the Glorious church of Christ.
 - i. In his letter to the brethren at Philippi he wanted them to know the Glorious Christ of the church.
 - b. Paul begins by exhorting and warning.
 - i. He wants the brethren to rejoice in the Lord while looking out for the dogs, evildoers, and those who mutilate the flesh (judizing teachers).
 1. **Ph 3:1-2**
 - c. Paul, as is often the case, explains the reason why the flesh is not where we are to glory in but rather in Christ.
 - i. Paul could glory in the flesh with anyone as a “Hebrew of Hebrews” however he implored the brethren to look not at this fleshly status but rather at the idea of “knowing Christ Jesus” and attaining the resurrection from the dead. Everything else was of no gain and rubbish.
 1. **Ph 3:3-11**
 - d. Paul then makes clear he has not obtained this yet though.
 - i. Though Paul sought to attain the resurrection from the dead and the perfection that brings in righteousness he was not there, yet he was striving to make it his own forgetting his past and working forward to the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 1. **Ph 3:12-16**
 - e. It is here in this section we find our text.
4. With this in mind let us examine our lesson today “Let Us Hold True.”
 - a. Let us see what we have attained that we are to hold true to.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Impact 3:16

I. Hold True To Knowing Christ Jesus Our Lord

- A. Knowing Christ means learning everything else is rubbish
1. That popularity and high worldly status mean nothing.
 - i. **Ph 3:4-7** “though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”
 2. That worldly relationships are nothing.
 - i. **Lk 14:26-27, 33** “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple...33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”
 3. That material things are nothing.
 - i. **Mt 6:19-21** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- B. Knowing Christ means learning righteousness is through faith
1. Righteousness through faith is studying God.
 - i. **II Ti 3:16-17** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
 2. Righteousness through faith is obeying that which you study concerning God.
 - i. **I Jn 2:3-5** “And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him”
 3. Righteousness through faith is teaching that which you study concerning God.
 - i. **II Ti 2:2** “and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”
- C. Knowing Christ means learning the power of His resurrection
1. Christ’s resurrection will raise the dead.
 - i. **I Th 4:16** “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”

Impact 3:16

2. Christ's resurrection will transform the physical to spiritual.
 - i. **I Co 15:42** "So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable."

II. Hold True To The Goal & Prize Set By Christ

- A. The goal of staying on the narrow way
 1. There are only two paths in life the narrow and the wide.
 - i. **Mt 7:13-14** "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."
 2. To stay on the narrow path one must...
 - i. Be willing to serve others.
 - a. **Ph 2:5-7** "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped"
 - ii. Be willing to obey even unto death.
 - a. **Ph 2:8** "And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."
 - b. **I Co 9:27** "But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."
 - iii. Be willing to love Christ.
 - a. **II Jn 6** "And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it."
- B. The prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus
 1. Though we have not obtained this we can hold to the hope of it.
 - i. **Ro 8:23-25** "And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

III. Hold True To Our Understanding

- A. Understanding that maturity is something desired
 1. Those seeking to obtain the resurrection of Christ desire maturity in knowledge.
 - i. **He 5:14** "But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil."

Impact 3:16

2. Those seeking to obtain the resurrection of Christ desire maturity in their spiritual walk by not being bogged down by frivolous things.
 - i. **He 6:1-2** “Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.”
- B. Understanding that nothing is hidden from the sight of God
 1. Those seeking to obtain the resurrection of Christ understand that whatever they do will be known by God.
 - i. **Ro 2:16** “on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.”
 2. Those seeking to obtain the resurrection of Christ understand that whatever they do will be made known to them whether good or evil.
 - i. **Ph 3:15** “Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.”
 - ii. **II Co 5:10** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren as Paul wrote let me echo we must hold true to what we have attained so that on that great day we may obtain the prize of the upward calling.
 - a. Let us do just that!!!
2. Question: Are you holding true to what you have attained?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**