

THE WORK OF PERFECTING MY WALK

SCRIPTURE: PHIL. 3:1-14

FOCAL THOUGHT: "...BUT THIS ONE THING I DO..."

INTRODUCTION:

As believers we have attained salvation, but we are to work on perfection.

Pursuing perfection is a work we must continue after salvation.

Note that none will achieve perfection on this earth.

Scripture emphasizes how far short we come.

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." (Romans 7:18-19)

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God." (2 Corinthians 3:5)

"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." (Ephesians 3:8)

No believer achieves perfection on this earth but note the work after salvation:

1. We must follow after perfection, after our God-given purpose.

Your salvation was just the beginning, not the end.

Christ saved you for perfection and as long as you are on this earth you are to press and run after perfection.

There is no such thing as a genuine believer sitting still after he has been saved.

The believer must not...

- become comfortable, complacent, lethargic, or lazy.
- waste time and lose opportunity.
- begin to think he is safe and secure forever; therefore, he can sometimes do what he likes and give in to his own desires.

The believer must follow, run, and press after perfection.

The believer must be active in living for Christ.

2. We must work at forgetting the past.

This is a demanding thing to do when we realize how much we have miserably failed God.

It is work to overcome the struggle to forget and move on.

This is one of the most difficult things in all the world to do.

And it is especially difficult if others are not forgiving and willing to let you put the failure behind you.

However, by meditating and controlling the mind and by reaching forth to those things which are before you it can happen.

Note the concentration and focus:

“...BUT THIS ONE THING I DO...”

In one focused act, we must forget the things that are past and reach forth to those things that are before us.

The act involves both forgetting and reaching forth.

The past cannot be forgotten without reaching forth to what lies ahead.

3. We must press on toward the goal, toward God’s purpose in Christ Jesus.

What is God’s purpose for you in Christ Jesus?

It is to be conformed to the image of Christ—to be perfect even as He is perfect.

4. We must work on keeping our mind on growing and maturing in Christ.

God pricks our hearts and reveals when we are failing and coming short.

God stirs us to get our minds back upon living like we should—upon pressing for perfection.

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

We must press our way through circumstances and interruptions that can take place causing the work towards perfection to stop.

When we truly give our life to God, we discover two things:

- Where we are and what we need to do to become who God created us to be.
- We also realize that there is a wilderness of imperfection that separates me from that created purpose.

We were created to reflect God’s greatness.

Being made in God’s likeness means that we possess characteristics of perfection that are found in God.

**“SEE THEN THAT YE WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS FOOLS, BUT AS WISE.”
(EPHESIANS 5:15)**