



A Scandalous Joy: The Upward Call | Philippians 3:12-4:1

Philippians 3:12-4:1

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 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. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

⁴ Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

The Prize

Philippians 3:14

¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:19-21

¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

“Jesus’s resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven.” -N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*

The Path

Philippians 3:13-14

¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:16

¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Philippians 4:1

⁴ Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

“The point of the resurrection...is that the present bodily life is not valueless just because it will die...What you do with your body in the present matters because God has a great future in store for it...What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—will last into God’s future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether...They are part of what we may call building for God’s kingdom.” -N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*

Philippians 3:17

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

The Person

Philippians 4:12

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Philippians 3:15

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.

