

## Sermon God's Path For Us In 2019

### *Philippians 3:13-21 (NASB)*

<sup>13</sup> *Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,*

<sup>14</sup> *I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

<sup>15</sup> *Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;*

<sup>16</sup> *however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.*

<sup>17</sup> *Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.*

<sup>18</sup> *For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,*

<sup>19</sup> *whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.*

<sup>20</sup> *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;*

<sup>21</sup> *who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.*

### *Philippians 4:1 (NASB)*

<sup>1</sup> *Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.*

Paul gives us some things to think about for a New Year.

I He says, **forgetting those things which are behind. Vs 13.** Let's talk about that, what do we leave behind?

#### A. The Bad.

1. The failures of the last year and beyond
2. The hurts, that we and others have done to us in the past.
3. The Sin, we need to confess it, forget it, and move forward.
4. Disappointments of the past from others and even our own plans.
5. Stupid decisions that we have made that have hurt us and maybe have paralyzed us.

#### B. The blessings must be left behind also, along with the past achievements. We leave them behind but do not forget them.

1. Great meetings, and events, and personal experiences that have blessed us.
2. Other events we have been involved in like Women's conference's, VBS blessings, Men's fellowships that have personally blessed us. Sharing with past reunions with past members.
3. Mission Conferences in the past, times with Missionaries who have come to the Church to share.
4. Other blessings, such as great testimonies, shared by those blessed of God.

II **Reaching for those things which are before. A. Pressing toward the "mark. Vs 14** What is it that is in front of us?

First of all, the finish line! Like the racer, we look forward to crossing the finish line.

We are looking toward the end of the race!

Looking for ***the upward calling of God***. To be with Him for Eternity! To share in the blessings of the Saints!

C. He tells us to follow together *v.17*

***Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.***

1. Walk by the same rule. To walk close to God.

***Colossians 2:6 (NASB)***

***<sup>6</sup> Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,***

2. We are to glorify Him in godly living.

***1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB)***

***<sup>31</sup> Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.***

3. Let us mind the same thing.

We should all be going in one direction. Following the Lord  
Honoring the Great Commission

D. We live by a higher Calling *Vs. 20*

***For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;***

### III. Stand fast in the Lord. Vs 4:1

1. Stand your ground (fixed)
2. Stand for the Lord like the dog soldiers of the Choctaws

***1 Corinthians 15:58 (NASB)***

***<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.***

3. Don't waver to the left or to the right.
4. Stay focused.

***Hebrews 12:2 (NASB)***

***<sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

Don't get distracted

Don't get discouraged

And above all don't quit.

With all this in mind, Let's commit together to:

Confess and forget sin, to walk closer with the Lord and to keep on track by being in the Word of God and listening for the leadership of the Holy Spirit. By making prayer a central part of our lives.

We have a new book before us, what will be written in that book of 2019?

Will Jesus come in 2019? We don't know but we should be ready for that call at any time.