

The Call of God in Christ Jesus

Part I

Philippians 3: 12-16

Holly Hills Bible Church
9:00 a.m. Philippians Class Study

HHBC



Philippians 3: 10-16



10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; **11** in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. **13** 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, **14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **15** *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;* **16** *however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.*



⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish ***so that I may gain Christ***, ⁹ and ***may be found in Him***, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the Law*, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ ***that I may know Him*** and the ***power of His resurrection*** and ***the fellowship of His sufferings***, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ ***in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.***

REVIEW of the: 6 PURPOSE CLAUSES in view / because of the surpassing **VALUE** of **Jesus Christ:** *(from last week)*

So that I may:

- I. gain Christ
- II. be found in Him: discovered / discovered to be, by fellow men, to be in Him
- III. KNOW Him – (experiential knowledge of His person)
- IV. know the **power of His resurrection**
- V. Know the fellowship with His sufferings
- VI. **Attain to the resurrection of the dead**

Credit: Merryman, R: Philippians #14; Paul's Mental Dynamics 3:4-14; merrymanministries.net

11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.



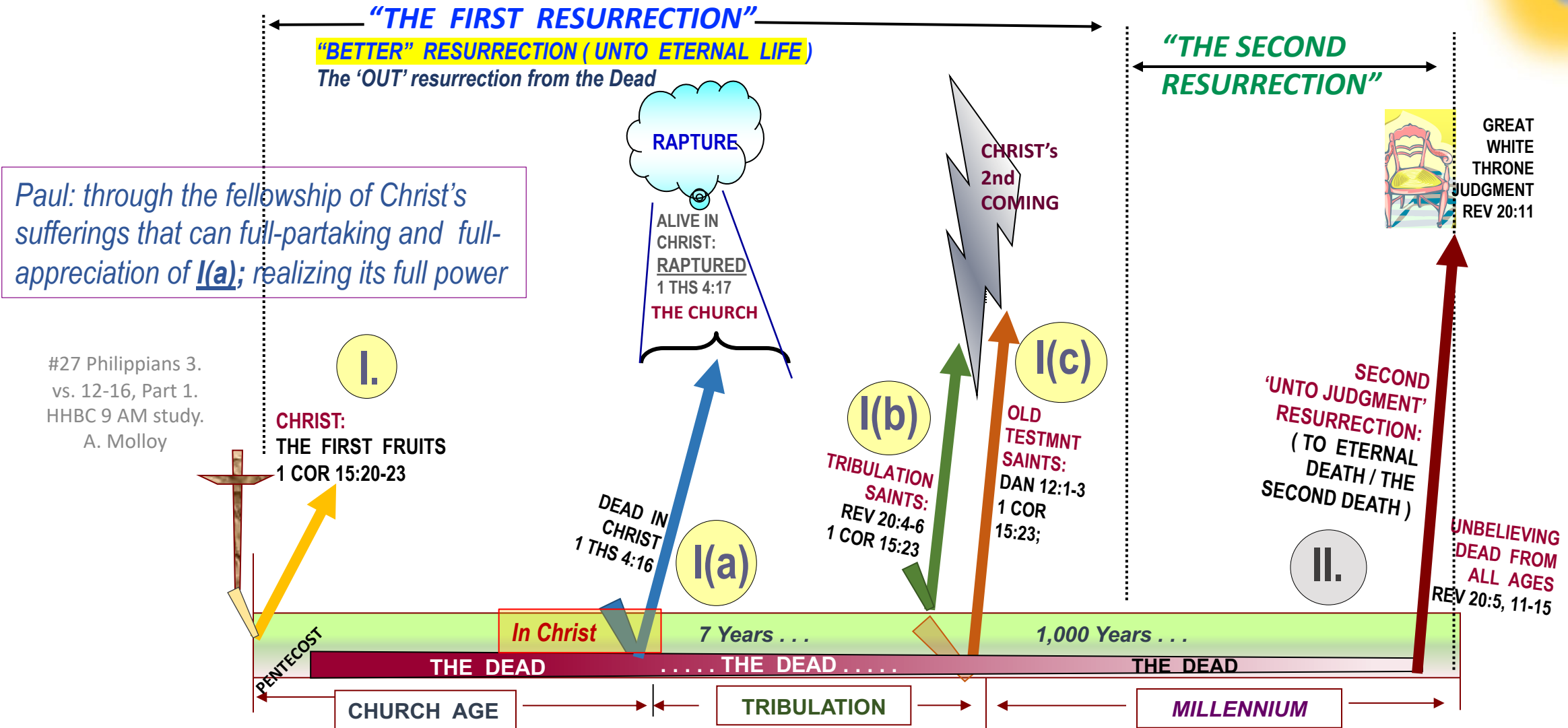
PURPOSE CLAUSE 6 of 6: **to attain the resurrection OUT from among the dead. . . .**

- Paul has ALREADY attained Vs. 11 this by his **position** in Christ and Christ's Life in him by grace through faith, and he knows this already
- We have attained Vs. 11 by our **position** in Christ, and Christ indwelling you through faith
- We have it banked to our account as part of the SALVATION operation: delivered from Sin's penalty; power in the present & future presence (by resurrection to Life); we know this already as a settled fact; and we have an absolute certain future (hope) of having it
- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living **hope** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead [1 Pet. 1:3]-*
- To ATTAIN is to come to (both in time and in mentality) and partake fully and positively in the resurrection from the dead (either living & raptured; or asleep in Christ & resurrected); but to have full appreciation of its significance & meaning **in the now**. Arrive at the resurrection-type life in this life, to have its effect on our present mentality and occupation in living life on earth.
- ***ex-anistēmi*** (*out resurrection*) from among the dead- an actual EVENT yet future

THE TWO RESURRECTIONS:

EACH IN THEIR OWN ORDER: I COR 15:23

11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection (out) from (among) the dead.



Paul: through the fellowship of Christ's sufferings that can full-partaking and full-appreciation of I(a); realizing its full power

#27 Philippians 3. vs. 12-16, Part 1. HHBC 9 AM study. A. Molloy

¹² Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.



Bottom Line Up Front:

This whole section in Paul's letter to the Philippians is **ASPIRATIONAL**; even he, the great minister of the mystery of the Church and the minister of grace, seeks to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ; Paul says in effect: *'I really haven't arrived at the goal the Lord has for me yet'*

12(a): 'I (even Paul)! Is not there yet; I have not already obtained it; **lambanō** - (Aor; active; indic.); not at a singular point in time did I actively lay hold of it, grab hold of it (ie. At my conversion)

“or have already become perfect” – change in tense to perfect-passive ‘not up to this time have I been perfected’

Vine: *neither when I became Christ's did I attain, nor, up to this time have I been perfected.*

Perfect: teleioō – arrived at the goal; finished out completely

But I **diōkō** on; press on as a runner towards a finish line; or Merryman's 'doggedly pursue' as an F.B.I. agent. Vine: I am chasing after a fixed point.

‘so that I may’

'Lay hold of that': katalambanō intensified form ‘obtaining it’ to “down-receive” (Merryman); *apprehend; a seizure. 'I would that for which Christ grasped me': Vine*

¹² Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.



What is he wanting to fully obtain?

Refers back to vs. 10, 11:

- TO KNOW HIM
- TO KNOW THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION
- TO HAVE THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS (NOT ON THE CROSS; BUT IN THE HERE AND NOW)
- CONFORMITY WITH HIS DEATH

Having full apprehension, full appreciation, full knowledge and participation in these Things of Christ is = MATURITY [Merryman; who says Christian maturity = Knowledge of the Truth + Application of the Truth]

By simple association: ***“I am the Way, the Truth and the life”*** Jn. 14:6 all of these things are: Christ Himself;

It brings one right back to: **‘For me to live is Christ, to die is gain’** [Phl 1:21]

¹² Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.



‘For which I was also laid hold of by Christ Jesus’

Christ Jesus *katalambanō* (ed) Paul; He forcefully seized him on the road to Damascus

It’s as if Paul is asking: Why did he do that? Why me of all people? (*a zeal-ridden persecutor of the church*)

‘I want to know what the ends of His full purpose in my seizing’

- Note: think of Paul’s mental state after he authorized and participated in Stephen’s stoning
- Do you think his conscience was bad over that? And did Stephen’s words haunt him?: *But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”* Acts 7:55,56
- Think of the change of mind Paul went through!: 180 degrees in the opposite direction of his life’s purpose and meaning

Merryman: *‘Jesus Christ apprehended ME; took full possession of me (acted upon; aor. passive); received me completely; took hold of me. I want to know (“that I may lay hold” is subjunctive; ‘if I can only know) the full significance of that in the NOW. I desire to know the Lord's intention of Him grasping me; responsive appropriation.’* [...Wuest agrees here]

13 *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,



‘I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet’

the greek tenor of this: *‘I really do not consider myself as having arrived, I haven’t yet grasped it’*

Do not regard = ***logizomai***

Paul has ran his debits against his credits and it doesn’t balance... I’m not there....

Or: *‘I do not reckon that I’m there’*

If Paul has considered all the facts and falls short of the goal, how about me?

‘forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead’

McCalley calls this: **attainment by abandonment**; he must give up in order to get; he must let loose in order to take hold

Paul takes us to the metaphor of an Olympic racer; he is the runner running for the finish line in order to win the prize;

The ‘moral’ of the metaphor is:

13 *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,



‘I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet’

Paul’s use of the Running the Race metaphor involves:

- Don’t look back; you keep your eyes forward; what lies behind is a distraction; even good things or accomplishments
- Don’t carry excess baggage; or drop it when you’re in the final stretch. Fighter jets jettison their fuel tanks in an emergency or combat situation to attain lightness and fastness.
- Keep your eyes focused on the finish line; or a point in the distance to keep your direction straight
- And stretch / reach for the finish line tape. ‘Stretching forward’ is the only use in the N.T.
- Merryman: v. 13 is a *men de* construction: ‘On the one hand, I forget what’s behind, on the other hand, I reach forward to what’s ahead’
- It is clear why Merryman calls this the mental dynamics of the Christian life....



‘I press on towards the goal for the prize’

‘press on’; again is **diōkō**; pursuing as law enforcement does a criminal, or to run swiftly as to catch the prize;

F.W. Grant: .. *“But he insists upon this that he has not attained, he is not already perfected. It is this that makes him pursue, with such steadfastness of aim and purpose, that which is before him. He wants to apprehend, that is, to lay hold of, that for which Christ has already laid hold of him. He is doing one thing, therefore,- how all our lives are spoilt by the desire to to more things than one! He is forgetting the things behind, stretching out to the things before,”* pressing ever to the goal *“for the prize of the calling on high of God in Christ Jesus;”* not simply high calling, but the *“calling above,”* the calling to a place outside the earth altogether” [The Numerical Bible, Acts to II Cor. p. 396; F.W. Grant; Loizeaux Brothers, Neptune, NJ]

- The race is the life here on earth
- The goal is the finish line v. 11’s the **out-resurrection of the dead** (or Rapture for those alive in Christ)
- The prize: the actual possession of Christ Jesus Himself in glory, enjoying His presence in our glorified bodies
- The prize is bound up with the calling; promised when the call is issued and given when the call is fulfilled (Vine)
- The upward call (high calling) **is from heaven and to heaven** (Vine)

A summary of the passage from J.B. Stoney from 'Ministry'



We get two glimpses in Philippians 3 which tell us how the heart of Paul, as fully led by the Spirit of God, was in connection with the hope of His coming.....

Secondly, we look for a savour. His heart was set on that personal meeting of *the Lord* at the end of his course.

It was not so much a question of glory with him, but that which would satisfy his heart, the presence of Christ.

He was loved by Christ, he was brought into service by Christ, and he was one to whom the Person of Christ was so dear that he had Christ for his prize. But his feet were still treading this world where he found thorns and briars, sand and flints enough to make his poor body weary; and not only so, but labouring in the house of God he had sorrow upon sorrow.

So here we get the coming of the Lord in connection with His coming as Saviour, who could come to take him and clothe him upon, with circumstances perfectly in harmony with ***the one solitary desire his heart— to have Christ as his gain.***

H.A. Ironside has Chapter III outlined as simply: **‘Christ as my Object’**