

Philippians 3.1-11

12

- BGT Οὐχ ὅτι ἤδη ἔλαβον ἢ ἤδη τετελείωμαι, διώκω δὲ εἰ καὶ καταλάβω, ἐφ' ᾧ καὶ κατελήμφθην ὑπὸ Χριστοῦ [Ἰησοῦ].
- NET Not that I have already attained this--that is, I have not already been perfected--but I strive to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus also laid hold of me.
- NRS Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.
- KJV Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.
- DRA Not as though I had already attained, or were already perfect: but I follow after, if I may by any means apprehend, wherein I am also apprehended by Christ Jesus.
- NAU 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.
- NIV Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.
- NLT I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.
- MSG I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me.

- Note the string of -λαμβάν- cognates in this and the following verse: ... ἔλαβον ... καταλάβω ... κατελήμφθην ... κατειληφέναι
- τετελείωμαι: Note the variety of ways that this word is translated. Also note that this initiates a string of τελ- words that Paul uses contrastingly in 3:12, 15, 19.
- Here and in v.14 Paul speaks of striving / διώκω, but recall how he used this word in 3:6!
- What, exactly, is Paul trying to make his own?
- Note the special definition given for ἐφ' ᾧ in BDAG: ἐφ' ᾧ = ἐπὶ τούτῳ ὅτι *for this reason that, because.*

13

- BGT ἀδελφοί, ἐγὼ ἐμαυτὸν οὐ λογίζομαι κατειληφέναι· ἐν δέ, τὰ μὲν ὀπίσω ἐπιλανθανόμενος τοῖς δὲ ἔμπροσθεν ἐπεκτεινόμενος,
- NET Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have attained this. Instead I am single-minded: Forgetting the things that are behind and reaching out for the things that are ahead,
- NRS Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
- KJV Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
- DRA Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended. But one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and stretching forth myself to those that are before,
- NAU 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,
- NIV Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,
- NLT No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,
- MSG Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward--to Jesus.

14
 BGT κατὰ σκοπὸν διώκω εἰς τὸ βραβεῖον τῆς ἄνω κλήσεως τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.
 NET with this goal in mind, I strive toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 NRS I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.
 KJV I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
 DRA I press towards the mark, to the prize of the supernal vocation of God in Christ Jesus.
 NAU I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 NIV I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
 NLT I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.
 MSG I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

- Is Paul simply restating in vv. 13-14 what he has already said in v. 12? (Note that 12a // 13a; 12b // 14a; 12c // 14b; only 13b is without parallel in v. 12.)
- From where is Paul borrowing the language he is using? Check out the other Pauline use of βραβεῖον in 1 Cor 9:24.
- κλήσις: Note the other Pauline uses of this word in Rom. 11:29; 1 Co. 1:26; 7:20; Eph. 1:18; 4:1, 4; Phil. 3:14; 2 Thess. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:9.

15
 BGT Ὅσοι οὖν τέλειοι, τοῦτο φρονῶμεν· καὶ εἴ τι ἑτέρως φρονεῖτε, καὶ τοῦτο ὁ θεὸς ὑμῖν ἀποκαλύψει·
 NET Therefore let those of us who are "perfect" embrace this point of view. If you think otherwise, God will reveal to you the error of your ways.
 NRS Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you.
 KJV Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.
 DRA Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing you be otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you,
 NAU 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;
 NIV All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.
 NLT Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you.
 MSG So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision--you'll see it yet!

- τέλειοι: Note that this is the same term used in Matthew 5:48! Is Paul being ironic here, or does he believe that it is possible for some Christians to be “perfect”? (Cf. the comments in the NET Bible.)
- What exactly is “this” / τοῦτο that Paul wants people to think and that God will reveal?
- Note the translation of the last half of this verse in the NET Bible. Have they correctly captured the nuance of the text? (Cf. NET Bible notes.)

16

BGT πλὴν εἰς ὃ ἐφθάσαμεν, τῷ αὐτῷ στοιχεῖν.

NET Nevertheless, let us live up to the standard that we have already attained.

NRS Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

KJV Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

DRA Nevertheless, whereunto we are come, that we be of the same mind, let us also continue in the same rule.

NAU however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

NIV Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

NLT But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

MSG Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it.

- Note the interesting text variant cited in the notes of the NET Bible.
- What “have we attained? To what “same thing” are we to hold fast?
- Check out the other NT uses of φθάνω: Matt. 12:28; Lk. 11:20; Rom. 9:31; 2 Co. 10:14; Phil. 3:16; 1 Thess. 2:16; 4:15.
- Check out the other NT uses of στοιχέω: Acts 21:24; Rom. 4:12; Gal. 5:25; 6:16; Phil. 3:16.