




STRATEGIC PLANNING for the CHRISTIAN LIFE.

Philippians 3:13-14 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, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- Introduction: Before you can develop a strategic plan, you must have a goal.

Philippians 3:10-12 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; ¹¹ If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. ¹² 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.

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- The goal is not the resurrection of the body in **that** future coming day.

Apprehended (vss. 12 & 13) *katalambanō*.
To lay hold of so as to make one's own

- The goal is living the resurrected life and it power over sin. Romans 6:1-6
- The wise of the world do strategic planning: **Luke 16:8** And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.
- Our strategic plan has three definite parts:

A. Admit Where You Are.

Philippians 3:13a Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended....

- Unlike High School or College, this learning and growth never ends.
- As with schooling, there is a daily need to prepare for and pass tests.
- Are you willing to identify and admit your short comings in your Christian growth?

B. Forget Where You've Been.

Philippians 3:13 b But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind,

- Those things, whether good or bad.
- The good things of the past do not redeem today's time.
- The bad things from the past must be confessed and the cleansing from all unrighteousness must be appropriated.
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C. Commit to Where You Want to Be.

Philippians 3 13c – 14 ...reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- The Christian life is a transformation process not an escape from Hell mechanism.
- You must identify those parts in your character and Christian activity that you want improved.
- There are important tools to be used in this pressing forward.