

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,


To all the saints in Christ Jesus,



Paul's Letter to the

Philippians

“The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined”
(Philippians 3:12-16)



PHILIPPIANS — *Joy No Matter What*

*ALL those IN CHRIST can
Have TRUE JOY & PEACE:*

- **Regardless** of our past - (our sins or what others have done to us)
- **Regardless** of our circumstances - (Our physical or material condition or how others are mistreating us)

“The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined”

How would you describe Paul's frame of mind?

- “Paul's Prayer For The Brethren In Philippi” - (1:3-11)
- “Making The Most of Our Circumstances” - (1:12-26)
- “Conduct Worthy of The Gospel” — (1:21-30)
- “Joyful Unity In Christ” — (2:1-5)
- “The Humbled & Exalted Christ” — (2:5-11)
- “Working Out Our Own Salvation” — (2:12-18)
- “Hold Such Men In Esteem” - (2:19-30)
- “That I May Gain Christ” — (3:1-11)



“The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined”

How would you describe Paul's frame of mind?

- **Aware** of his current state & his need ... 12a
- **Determined** to faithfully serve Christ ... 12b
- **Focussed** on the task of progression ... 13
- **Diligent**, continuous effort to gain the prize ... 14
- **His plea** for them, (us) to be likeminded ... 15,16

(Philippians 3:12-16)

Philippians 3:12–16 (NKJV)

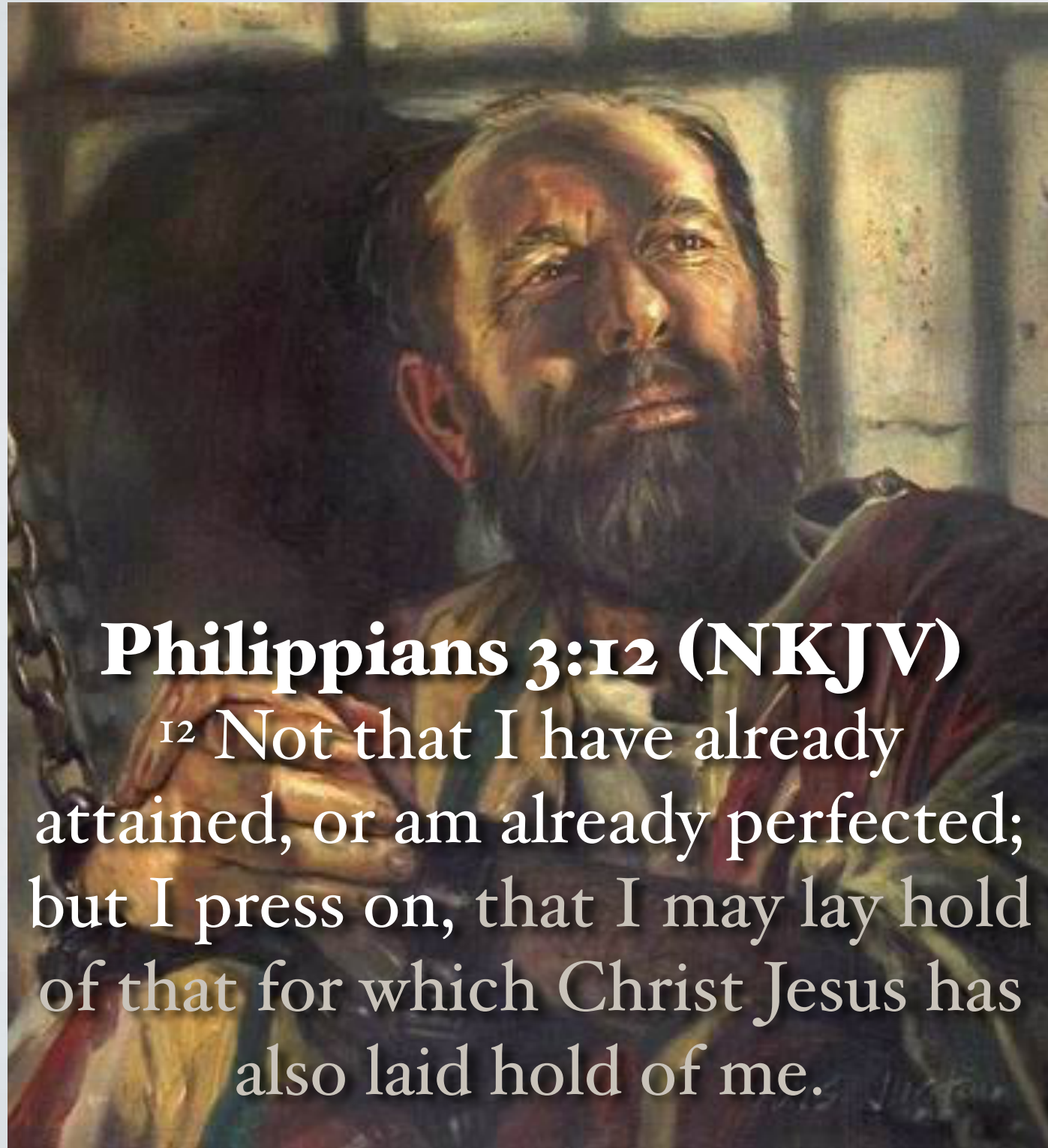
¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

Philippians 3:12–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

“The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined”

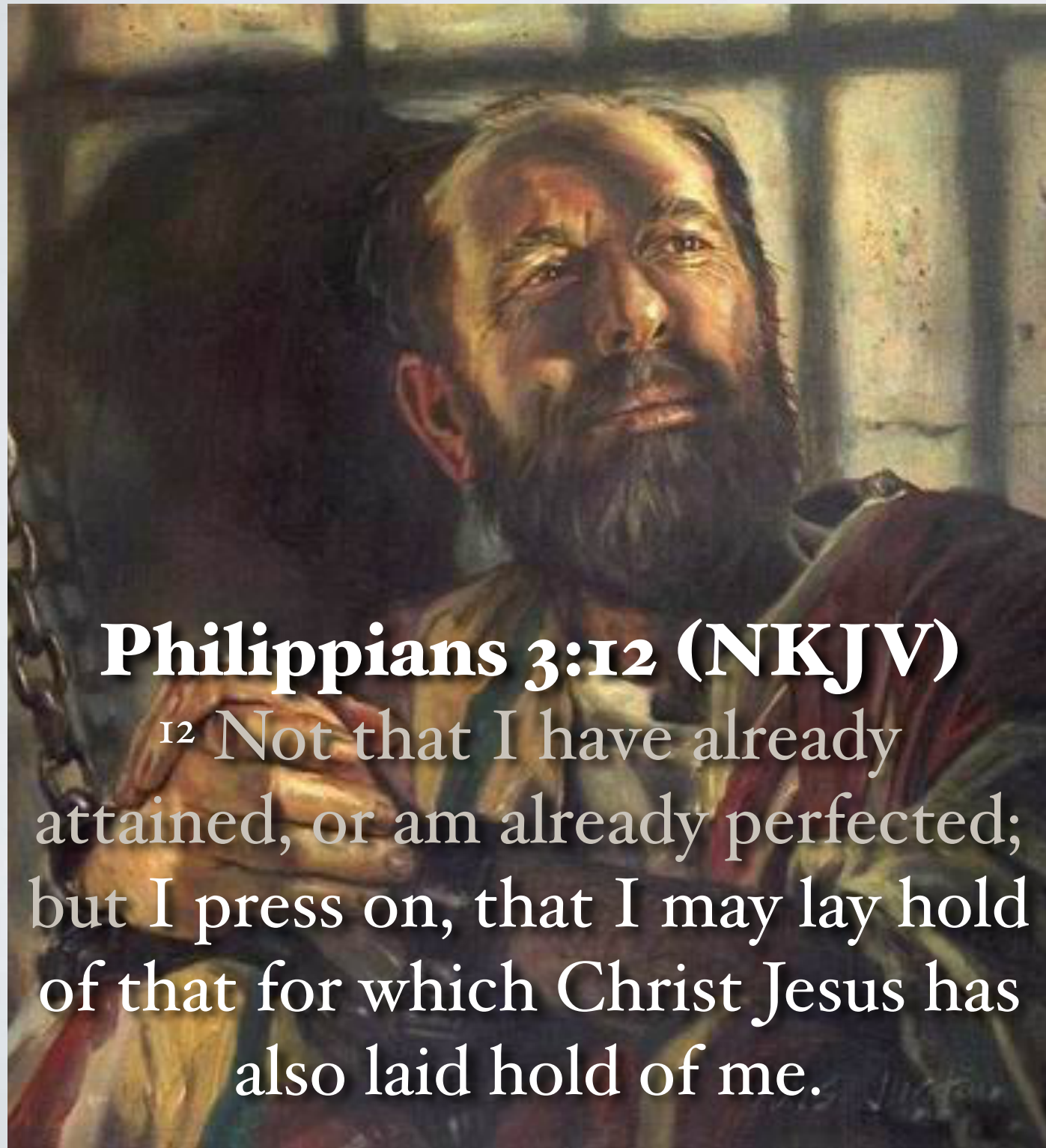
AWARE OF HIS CURRENT STATE & NEED - 12A



- Paul understood his RACE was not yet complete / his goal not yet reached — (cf. 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 2 Tim 4:7)
- The Christian life is like running a race — must endure - Heb. 12:1-3
- The crown will only be GIVEN to those who run according to the rules — 2 Tim. 2:5

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DETERMINED TO FAITHFULLY SERVE CHRIST - 12B



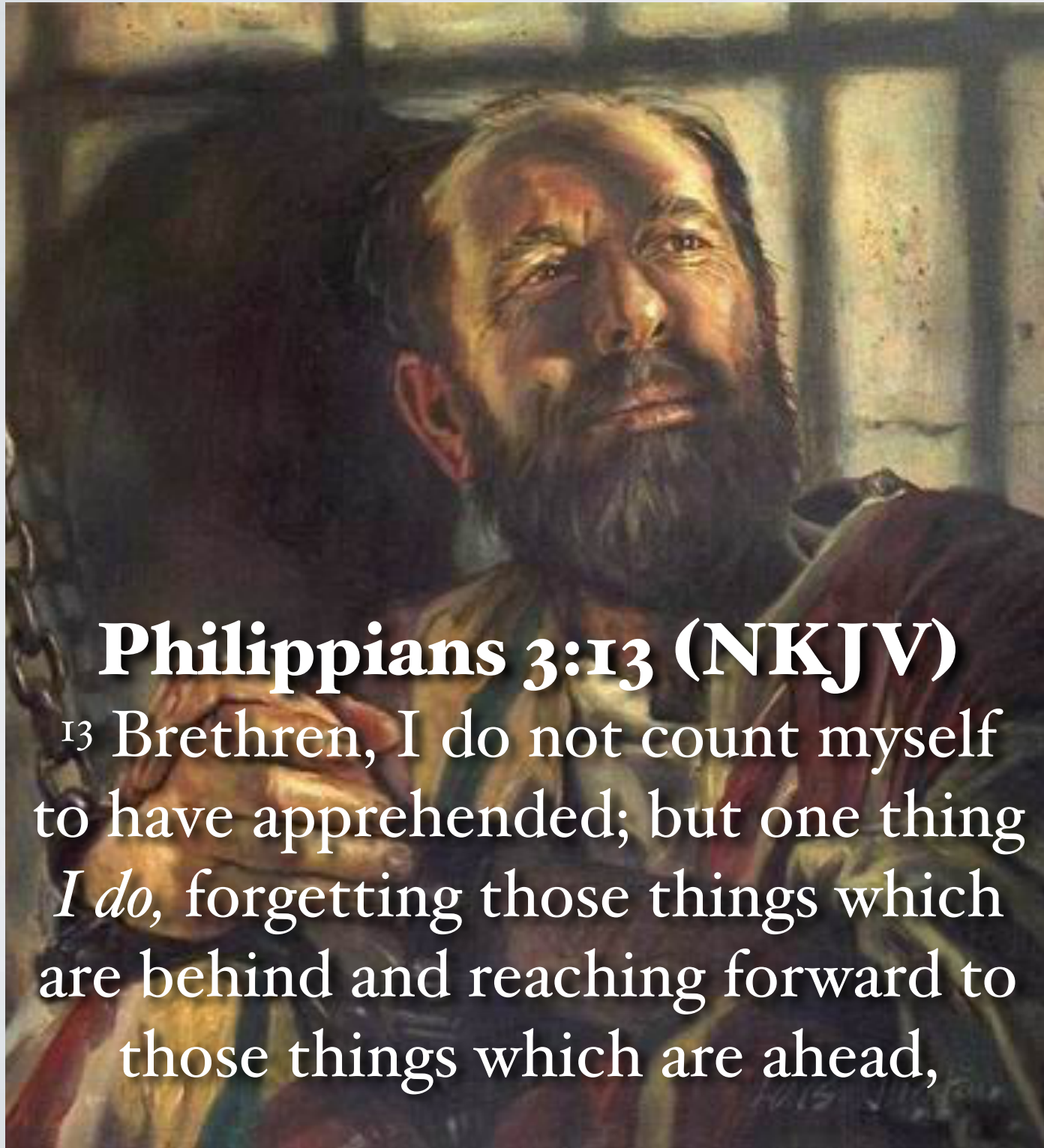
Philippians 3:12 (NKJV)

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

- Paul is determined to **PRESS** on in hot pursuit of the objective assigned to him. — Acts 9:1-19, esp. vs 15; also 22:15, 21; 26:15-18;
- Paul took his calling seriously — 1 Cor. 9:16; Phil. 2:12,13; 4:13;
- So **MUST** we — 2 Thes. 2:13-15; Lk 9:62; 14:33; 17:32; Mat 25:14-39

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FOCUSSED ON THE TASK OF PROGRESSION —13



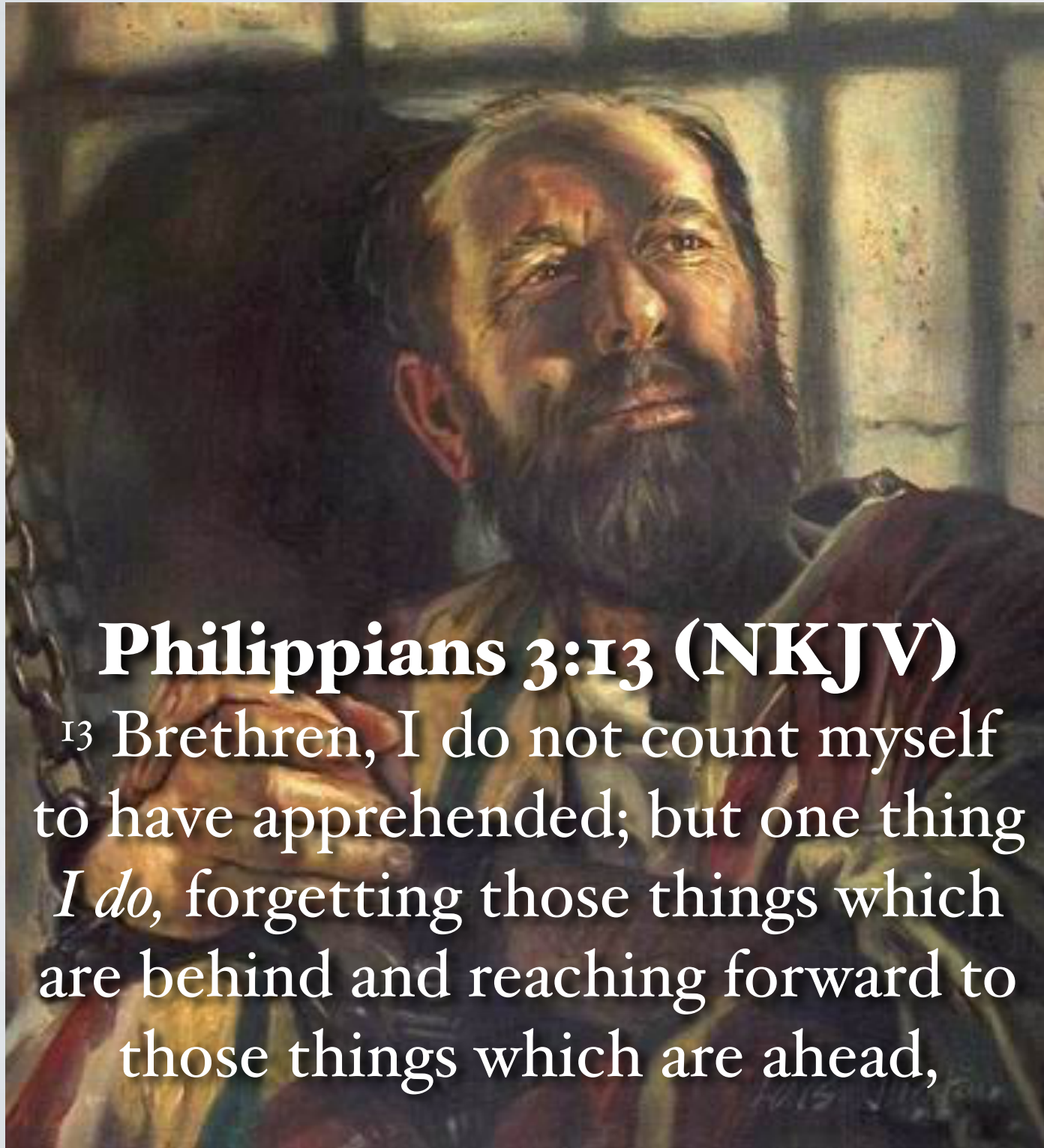
Philippians 3:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

- “I do not count myself to have apprehended.” — Paul was not content with “how far he had come.” He took no pride in how much he had sacrificed - or how much he had suffered - (cf. vv. 2-11)
- “But one thing I do,” — Paul refused to be controlled or absorbed by his past heritage (vv. 5-7) or his attainments (v. 8).

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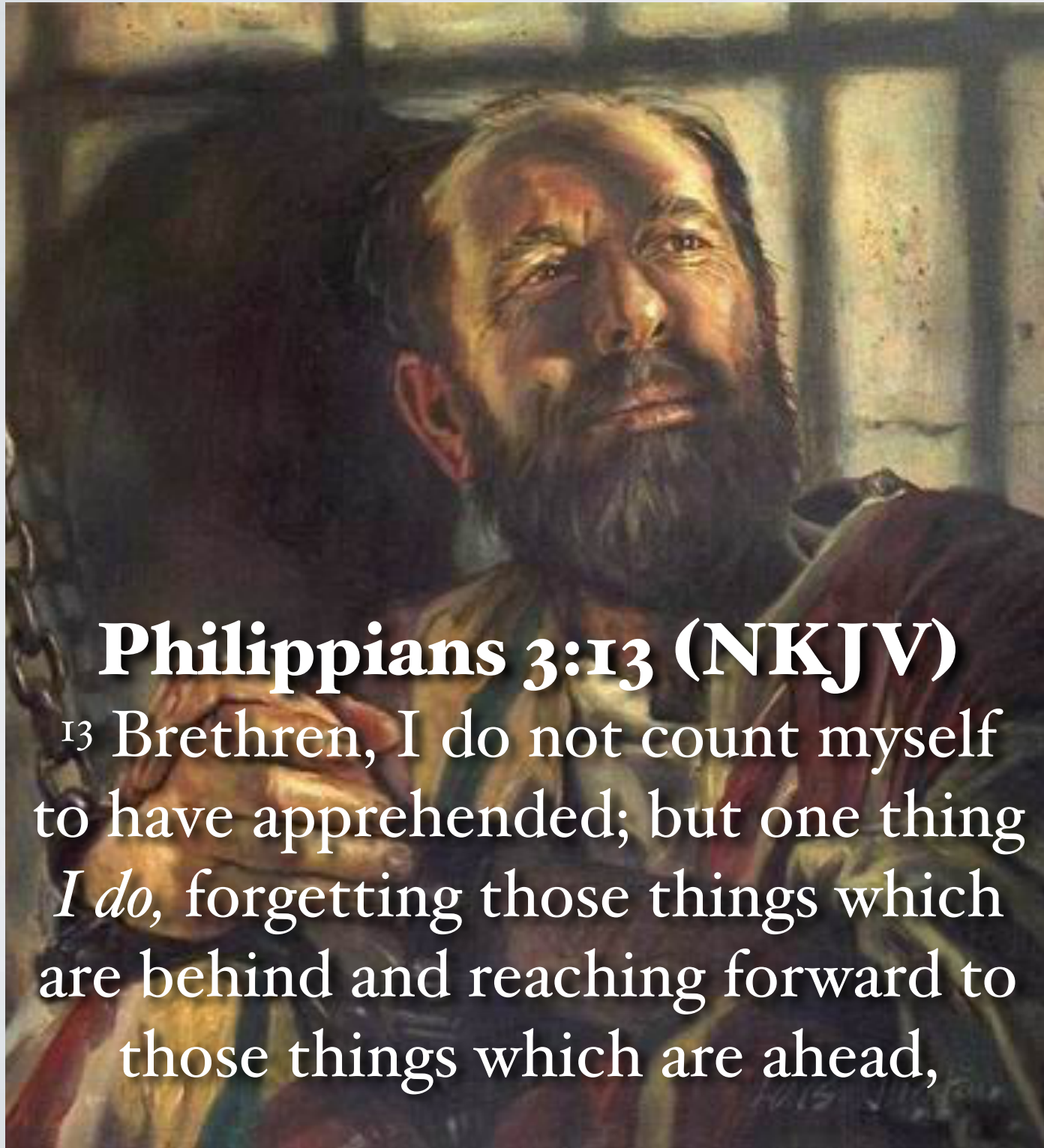
Philippians 3:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

- “Reaching forward to those things which are ahead” — Picture a runner straining every nerve & muscle as he runs with all his might toward the goal, hand stretched out reaching to grasp it.
- Spiritual growth / progress **MUST** be diligently pursued if we are to receive the prize — Jn 6:27; 2 Pet 1:5-10; Heb 6:11; 12:15

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FOCUSSED ON THE TASK OF PROGRESSION —13



Philippians 3:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

- In everyday life distractions are often disastrous, ...
- In the spiritual realm worldly cares, wealth, evil desires choke the word (Mark 4:19).
- Over-emphasis on sports, financial status, entertainment, clothes, physical charm, etc., **WILL** prevent **US** from reaching our spiritual goal & PRIZE.

“The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined”

DILIGENT, CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO GAIN THE PRIZE — 14



Philippians 3:14 (NKJV)

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

- “**I PRESS toward the goal**” — to strive, to press with purpose, (Lou-Nida) —
- Paul sought diligently to promote the glory of God by every tool at his disposal, particularly by preaching the gospel to all men (Acts 22:15, 21; 26:16-18), that he might by all means save some (1 Cor. 9:22).

“The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined”

DILIGENT, CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO GAIN THE PRIZE — 14



- “The prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” —
- The **upward call**, or heavenward call, is what the Lord had “laid on” him, (12.b) the charge of preaching the gospel to a lost & dying world. — (1 Thes 2:12; 2 Thes 2:14,15; Eph. 1:18; 2 Pet. 5:10)

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DILIGENT, CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO GAIN THE PRIZE — 14



- “The prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” —
- The **PRIZE**, the **REWARD** of the “upward call,”
- Crown — 2 Tim 4:8; James 1:12; Rev 2:10
- Upward — 1 Thes 4:17
- Eternal life — Titus 1:2; Mat 25:46; 1 Tim 6:19
- Hope laid up in heaven — Col. 1:5; 1 Pet 1:4

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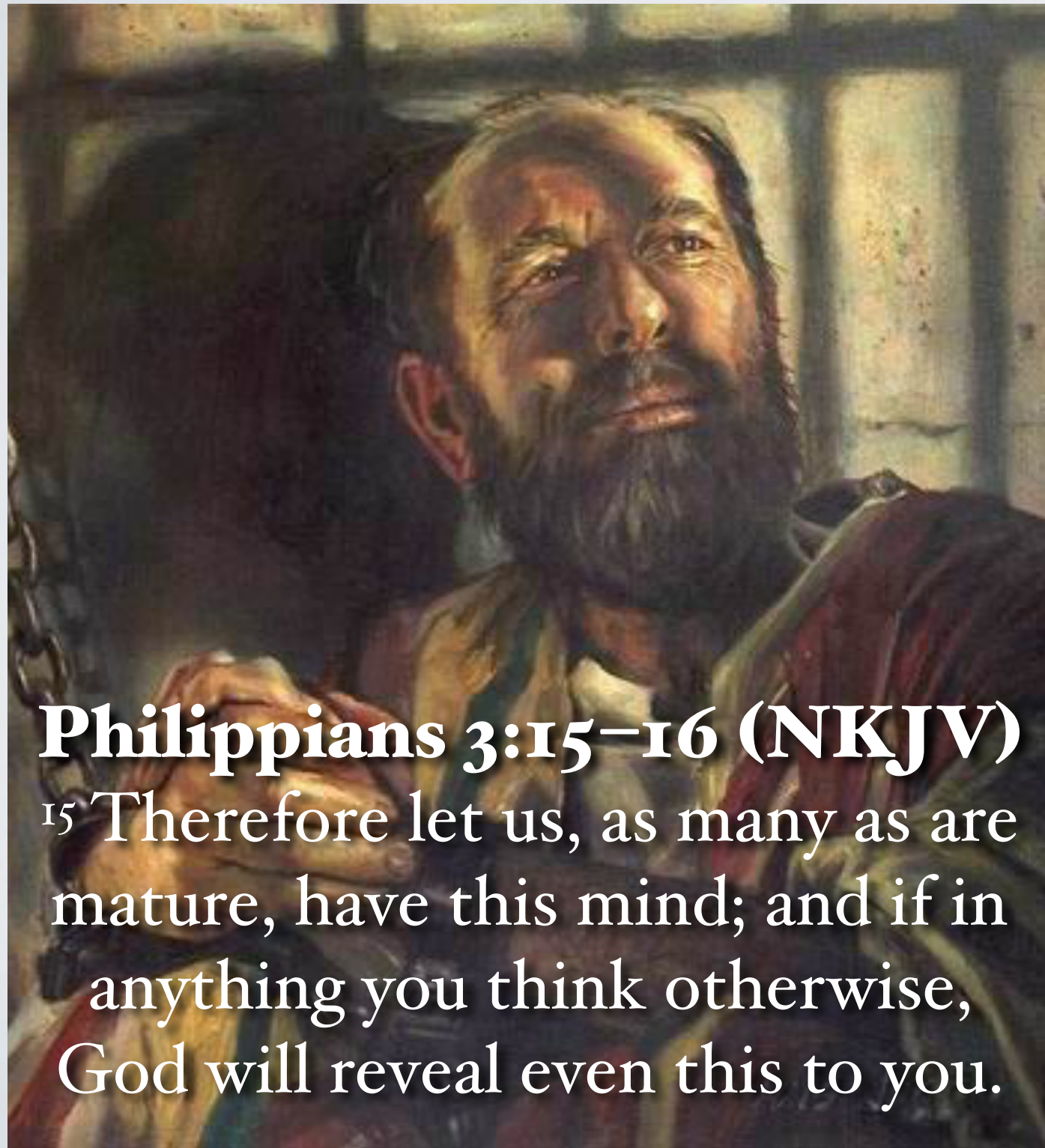
¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Hebrews 6:11-12
(NKJV)**

¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

“The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined”

HIS PLEA FOR THEM, (US) TO BE LIKEMINDED — 15,16



- **LET US have this mind:** i.e., those of us who have a mature, or a correct *spiritual* understanding — 1 Cor. 2:6; Col. 1:9-12
- Those who have a different understanding, if they desired the truth, it would be revealed to them — Jn 7:17; (TC WW)
- Some view this as a reference to the Judaizers and is intended to be a warning — cf. vs. 3

“The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined”

HIS PLEA FOR THEM, (US) TO BE LIKEMINDED — 15,16



Philippians 3:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

- The importance of DOING what we currently know to do! — Acts 2:41,42
- The importance of striving to fulfill our calling as Christians — 1 :21-30; Mat 25:14-30
- The importance of striving to GROW — 2 Pet 1:5-10
- Walk by the same rule — lit., "keep in line with the truth revealed" — 1:27; 2 Tim. 1:13

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How would you describe YOUR frame of mind?

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“The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined”

ARE YOU SEEKING THE PRIZE?



- Are we **PRESSING** to fulfill our purpose in Christ?
- or Are we **RESTING** on our past accomplishments?
- Are we **REACHING** forward, striving to grow in Christ?
- Are we **STRIVING** to gain the prize that comes with our faithful service to Christ?
- The **TRUTH** will be revealed!

“The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined”²⁰

ARE YOU SEEKING THE PRIZE?



➤ *It starts with doing what you know to be true - then growing in knowledge & service?*

- First must obey the gospel — Heb 5:8,9; Mk 16:16
- Growing in faith, diligently serving the Lord — 2 Pet 1:5-10
- Eternal joy awaits — (Rom 8:18; 1 Cor 15:58)

‘The Mind of Paul - Focussed & Determined’

How would you describe Paul's frame of mind?

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2 Timothy 4:1–8 (NKJV)

¹ I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

2 Timothy 4:1–8 (NKJV)

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1–8 (NKJV)

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.