

## Joy of Growing In Christ



It is comforting to know that we are all:  
**A work in progress!**  
God was not done with the Apostle Paul when he wrote this passage and God is not done with you either.

### A. Growing To Maturity With Joy Phil 3:12-16

#### 1. Who is perfect?

Perfect: To reach a goal, fulfill a purpose, complete  
*There are three kinds of spiritual perfection*

- Positional: As God sees me *Heb 10:14*
- Progressive: As others see me *2 Cor 7:1*
- Ultimate: As seen in heaven (See "C" below :20-21)

#### 2. What does it mean to grow?

- Keep on keeping on (press on) :12; 14  
*Pursue a specific goal*
- Forget the past :13  
*Remember the past but do not live in it*
- Reach forward :13  
*Laying hold of the plow Luke 9:62*
- Grow together as a Church :15-16  
*Grow up in all things into Him... Eph 4:7-16*

### B. Walking the Walk With Joy Phil 3:17-19

As we walk through this life we encounter both the good and the bad. The one who walks with the 'joy' of the Lord knows the difference. *Psalm 16:11 In His presence is fullness of joy!*

#### 1. The good :17

Those who are an example of the faith; our spiritual fathers and mothers; those who demonstrate the character of Christ in their walk.

#### 2. The bad :18-19

*The following are enemies of the cross of Christ :18*

- Hedonism: Pleasure is the only goal :19  
*If it feels good do it*
- Narcissism: It's all about me :19  
*If it makes me look good—it's good*
- Secularism: Exclusion of the religion :19  
*Secular (non-Biblical) thought is superior to Biblical or religious thought.*

### C. Joy When This Life is Over Phil 3:20-21

Ultimate Perfection: This is the third type of spiritual perfection

- Heavenly citizenship: Our passport to heaven is already sealed by the Holy Spirit while we fulfill the call of the Gospel here. :20
- Transformed body: We will be like Him in our own glorified bodies. *1 Cor 15:42-49*

### Philippians 3:12-21

**:12** Not that I have already attained, or am already (A1) perfected; but I (A2 a) 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*, (A2 b) forgetting those things which are behind and (A2 c) reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

**:14** I (A2 a) press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**:15** Therefore let us, (A2 d) 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.

**:17** Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

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

**:19** whose end *is* destruction, (B2 a) whose god is their belly, and (B2 b) whose glory is in their shame— (B2 c) who set their mind on earthly things.

**:20** For our (C1) citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

**:21** who will (C2) transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.