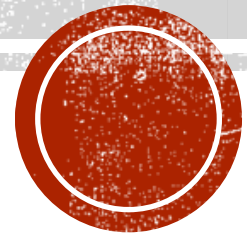


STRAINING FORWARD TO BE MADE COMPLETE

Tuesday, March 15th, 2016

Orange Lutheran High School

Pastor Al Espinosa



**JESUS ONCE SAID, "TETELISTAI!" IT IS
FINISHED!**



THEREFORE, YOU ARE COMPLETE!

- Hebrews 10:14: “For by one offering He has perfected in perpetuity the ones being sanctified.”
- “TETELIOKEN” = “He has perfected”
- In Christ, you are perfected/complete! Completely forgiven, completely in possession of eternal life (you have **ALREADY** crossed from death to life, Jn 5:24), completely saved, and in Christ, completely sanctified too!



AND...AT THE SAME TIME...



PAUL WAS IN PHILIPPI

- Roman colony populated by former Roman soldiers.
- Worshipped various deities, esp. Silvanus, Roman god of the countryside and agriculture.
- I had the privilege of conducting a baptism there, but things were not always so rosy there.
- Paul was arrested there and had to endure a public beating there! (Acts 16:22-23):
“The crowd joined in attacking them [Paul and Silas], and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison...”



SO PAUL KNEW ABOUT BEING COMPLETE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME...

- Philippians 3:12: “Not that I...am already perfect...”
- “TETELEIOMAI” = Been Perfected
- Paul says he has NOT been perfected.



UH OH...ONE OF THOSE “CONTRADICTIONS” IN SCRIPTURE THAT SKEPTICS TALK ABOUT!

- Not at all!
- This is NOT an either-or situation, but a both-and!
- Let me give you some examples:



STEPH CURRY



CURRY ALREADY IS AND NOT ALREADY IS

- He is already the reigning MVP in the NBA
- He is already on the reigning NBA championship team
- But he does not live like he's taking his status for granted...he lives like he still has work to do!



AFTER LAST NIGHT'S GAME:

- "I hope to keep getting better, that's the mission, and I'll never be satisfied with where I'm at," Curry said. "I always want to find different ways to improve. I guess I'm officially in my prime, but we'll see how far this thing can go."



PAUL REJOICED TO BE COMPLETE IN CHRIST, BUT HE EXCELLED AT LIVING FOR CHRIST!

- **Philippians 3:12-14: “Not that I already received, or already have been perfected, but I press on, if I also may lay hold, inasmuch as I also was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not count myself to have laid hold, but one thing I do, forgetting the things behind, and stretching forward to those things before, I press on after the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”**



**AS CHRISTIANS, WE ALSO “PRESS ON
AFTER THE MARK, FOR THE PRIZE”**



QUESTION: ARE YOU CHAMPIONS?

Answer: _____!



QUESTION: ARE YOU THEREFORE DONE?

■ Answer: _____!



ARE YOU FINISHED?



THE CHRISTIAN KNOWS THAT SHE OR HE IS COMPLETE...BUT NOT YET FINISHED!

- But in both perspectives, there is really **ONLY ONE** who does it...
- 1. In being complete/perfected: it's all because of Jesus!
- 2. In pressing on/straining on/stretching on: it's all because of Jesus!



HOW DOES PAUL TEACH OUR COMPLETE RELIANCE UPON THE LORD?

- 1. Verse 12: Even as I'm trying to laid hold of the prize (vs 14), I know that Jesus has **ALREADY** laid hold of me!
- 2. Verse 13: Forgetting what is behind...tricky, take care here. Even to try to "forget" means that we are at the same time remembering! So what is Paul really forgetting?



“FORGETTING” = “CONSTANT DISCARDING OF THE IDEA OF RELYING ON SELF”

- He is discarding his temptation to exalt himself, to rely on himself, to be about pride or self-strength...NO! Forget about it!
- Look at this picture one more time:



LOOK CLOSELY ONE MORE TIME!



HOW DOES PAUL TEACH COMPLETE RELIANCE UPON THE LORD?

- 3. Stretching forward or straining forward...do you recall that Paul was willing to be beaten and imprisoned in Philippi? We are willing to bear crosses for our Savior who bore His cross for us.
- 4. How do we find the strength? Verse 14: As we have our eyes on the prize, we constantly receive “the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”!!!



GOD IS CALLING YOU THROUGH HIS WORD!

- Let there be light! (Gen. 1:3)



GOD'S HIGH CALLING: THE GOSPEL KEEPS YOU COMPLETE AND STRONG!

- In Christ, the Father draws you!
John 6:44!
- In Christ, the Father enables you!
John 6:65!



THE WORD GIVES YOU STRENGTH TO STRAIN FORWARD! CHRIST GIVES YOU STRENGTH!

- So later in this same letter, St. Paul would write:
- “I can do all things through Christ, the One giving me power.”
-- Philippians 4:13



So...

- In Christ, you are complete and perfected!
- In Christ, you are being completed and perfected!
- Both are true!



SO...

- 1. Rejoice in your perfected state!
- 2. Know that even as you strive now...He has laid hold of you...you are HIS prize! His child! And He sustains you by calling you constantly...His call, His Word is your power and life...it causes you to keep your eyes on the prize! To press on! To strain ahead...after all, your calling is a high calling! A great calling...because your Savior loves you!

