

Gaining the prize of the high calling



Pressing forward

ALLEN STUMP



The gospel is to be presented, not as a lifeless theory, but as a living force to change the life. God desires that the receivers of His grace shall be witnesses to its power. Those whose course has been most offensive to Him He freely accepts; when they repent, He imparts to them His divine Spirit, places them in the highest positions of trust, and sends them forth into the camp of the disloyal to proclaim His boundless mercy. . . . (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 826.2)

Peter had sincerely repented of that sin, and had been forgiven by Christ, as is shown by the high commission given him to feed the sheep and lambs of the flock. . . . (*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 3, p. 437.1)

2 Timothy 2:21 (KJV) – 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Philippians 3:3-4 (KJV) – 3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. **4** Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

Philippians 3:5–6 (KJV) – 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Philippians 3:7-8 (KJV) – 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. **8** Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Paul had been educated by the most learned teachers of the age. He had been taught by Gamaliel. Paul was a rabbi and statesman. **He was a member of the Sanhedrin**, and had been very zealous for the suppression of Christianity. . . .

(Review and Herald, March 6, 1900, par. 3)

This body [the Sanhedrin] was made up of members chosen from the priesthood, and from the chief rulers and teachers of the nation. The high priest was usually the president. **All its members** were to be men advanced in years, though not aged; men of learning, not only versed in Jewish religion and history, but in general knowledge. They were to be without physical blemish, and **must be married men, and fathers**, as being more likely than others to be humane and considerate. . . .

(The Desire of Ages, p. 133.1)

Philippians 3:9–11 (KJV) – 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 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.

Romans 1:17 (KJV) – 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. (*The Great Controversy*, p. 637.1)

Philippians 3:12 (KJV) – 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.

Philippians 3:13 (KJV) – 13 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,

Philippians 3:14 (KJV) – 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Attained = λαμβάνω (*lambanō*):

"to receive," "to obtain"

1 Corinthians 9:24 (KJV) – 24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but **one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.**

Philippians 2:2-4 (KJV) – 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Attained = λαμβάνω (*lambanō*):

"to receive," "to obtain"

Apprehend = καταλαμβάνω
(*katalambanō*), "to lay hold
of," "to obtain," "to win," or
"to overtake"

John 1:5 (KJV) – 5 And the light shineth
in darkness; and the darkness
comprehended (*katalambanō*) it not.

Philippians 3:12 (ESV) – 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Hebrews 12:1–2 (KJV) – 1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

***Press = διώκω (diōkō),
“pursue,” “follow after” in
v. 12. “persecute”***

Acts 9:4 (KJV) – 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?