

Never Again

Phil 3:13-14

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Text: Php 3:13,14 For I, Brothers, do not regard myself as having yet laid hold of it. But this one thing I do--forgetting what lies behind, and straining every nerve for that which lies in front, 14 I press on to the goal, to gain the prize of that heavenward Call which God gave me through Christ Jesus. (Twentieth Century N.T.)

(TITLE)

- B. The year 2016 is now history. Whatever this new year means to you, it is a time for beginning again. We don't have to dread the future simply because of the past, nor see in it an escape from burdens and despair.
1. If satisfied with past year's accomplishment, we may be little reluctant to see 2016 end. However, if past year was good, you probably are facing 2017 with anticipation
 2. But if 2016 dealt harsh and cruel experiences you may be calloused to dread 2017 as repetition of a hard lot in life.
 3. Whatever the New Year means to you, it is time for beginning again!
- C. We would do well to have a balanced account with God and man every day, but especially at the New Year.
1. Changing from 2016 to 2017 can provide a reference point for new resolves and happy challenges.
 2. Should be made up of real commitments, submissions and surrenders based not only on our strengths and determinations, but in security of the living God Phil 4:19
- D. May we, through determined resolve, have in 2017 the kind of spiritual experience that will prepare us for eternity. As Poet Helen Jackson wrote: "Only a night from old to new,
Only a sleep from night to morn.
The new is but the old come true,
Each sunrise sees a New Year born."
- E. "Never Again" can we reclaim the past. What Mother nature giveth, Father Time taketh away. Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

DISCUSSION:

I. NEVER AGAIN SHOULD I SAY "I CAN'T"

- A. I can do all things through Christ Phil 4:13
1. The context stresses the value of contentment (v. 12).
 2. Paul had been initiated into a knowledge of how to bear up.
- B. "Strengthen" in present tense, therefore, continuous action 2Tim 4:17
1. Christ gives us the strength we need!
 2. Comes through knowledge of God's Word 2Tim 4:17
God's might to direct me; God's power to protect me;
God's wisdom for learning; God's eye for discerning;
God's ear for my hearing; God's Word for my clearing.

II. NEVER AGAIN SHOULD I ADMIT LACK

- A. God supplies my need Phil 4:19. Cf. Jas 1:17; Matt 6:33
- B. God created man with three basic needs: Physical, Mental and Spiritual.
1. Physical: we are commanded to work for these - Gen 3:19; 1Thess 4:11; 2Thess 3:10. But God gives increase 1Cor 3:6-7.
 2. Mental: mental health requires something to do, someone to love and something to look forward to. God provides work, family & friends to love, fellowship in worship and the hope of heaven - 2Thess 3:10; Eph 5:22-23; Psa 122:1; 2Tim 4:6-9
 3. Spiritual: A Savior Jhn 3:16, A Divine guide 2Pet 1:2, Encouragement Rev 22:14
- C. Divine power given us all things 2Pet 1:3 If my religion's not all that it ought to be, the trouble is not with God, the trouble's with me.

III. NEVER AGAIN SHOULD I BE WORRIED AND FRUSTRATED

- A. God cares for me Phil 4:6-7; 1Pet 5:7
- B. We can reject anxiety and fear by:
1. Believing in God's desire and ability to care for us Jhn 14:1; Matt 6:25
 2. Learning to be content Phil 4:11-12
 3. God helping overcome problems of life Phil 4:13
 4. Finding strength in prayer 1Pet 5:6-7; Phil 4:6-7
 5. "Fear knocked at the door, Faith answered, No one was there" (inscription over the mantel of Hine's Head Hotel, England).
- C. Fear is faithlessness!

IV. NEVER AGAIN SHOULD I ALLOW THE SUPREMACY OF SATAN OVER MY LIFE Phil 2:13-16

- A. The power of God is stronger 1Jhn 4:4
1. God dwells in us. 2Cor 6:16
 2. Christ dwells in us. Rom 8:10
 3. Holy Spirit dwells in us. 1Cor 6:19
- B. We resist Satan by:
1. Watchfulness and soberness 1Pet 5:8
 2. Knowledge of Scripture Matt 4:1-11
 3. Being armed and prepared Eph 6:11
 4. Standing up for what is right Eph 4:27
 5. Steadfastness 1Pet 5:9

CONCLUSION:

- A. God calls through the gospel 2Thess 2:14; 2Tim 1:9
- B. Have you responded to His call? Acts 26:19
- C. This is done through obedience from the heart Rom 6:17

(Adapted from a lesson by Jimmy Tuten)