

Sunday 2nd July 2023

Looking back and looking forward

Philippians 3 | David Peterson

Introduction

Maturity is portrayed in this passage as an attitude and lifestyle that does not dwell on past sins and failures, but strains towards what is promised to us as Christians.

1. A clear and present danger (vv. 1–3)

- a. The threat posed by Judaisers

- b. Israel's hopes fulfilled in Christ

2. Paul's previous confidence (vv. 4-6)

- a. His background and status

- b. His religious achievements

3. Paul's new confidence (vv. 7-11)

- a. What he lost

- b. What he gained

c. What he still desired

4. Following Paul's example (vv. 12–21)

a. Pressing on toward the goal

b. Maturity in the present

c. Living as citizens of heaven

Conclusions

1. Mature Christians **firmly believe the gospel claims** about being redeemed by Jesus and look forward to sharing resurrection life with him.
2. We are finally perfected when we are **transformed into his likeness** (Philippians 3:11, 21; 2 Corinthians 3:18).
3. Mature Christians are **not side-tracked by alternative spiritualities**, which deny that fullness of life can be found in the crucified and exalted Christ (Philippians 3:1–4a; Colossians 2:6–3), or by the corrupt ways of the world (Philippians 3:17–20).
4. Christian maturity is bound up with **divinely guided thinking**, nurtured by the sort of proclamation, warning and teaching in which the apostle engaged, and demonstrated in **the pattern of life** he exemplified (1 Corinthians 2:6–16; Colossians 1:15 – 2:8).