

sense as well. But in this discussion we are not seeking to fix that *sort of blame on anyone...we are trying to see how we are delivered from it and how this is one of the great personal blessings the Lord gives to His people.* Philippians 3 is the key Scripture for in this passage we see how the Apostle, himself, sought to grow and grow and enter more into the fullness of maturity in the Lord. What, as we would say it today, was good for him , is still good for us.

## II, Discussion:

A. Grow in the knowledge of Christ. We all speak about knowing persons whom we hardly know at all and we understand that the longer one lives with someone the better one knows that person---or should, at least. Knowing Christ better is the aim of the Apostle.

1. Forget (for reckoning purposes) your own attainments v 8
2. Strengthen your knowledge of Him: (9-10) Part of the steps in this are these:
  - saving trust
  - worship: spending time with Him and listening
  - knowing the Word and thereby enjoying His person
3. Be thankful for all the blessings that accrue through Him.

B. Pay attention to His will: following the state of Paul in v 12

1. Walk in the direction He (our Lord) walked. (Doing the will of the Father; ministering to others, etc)
2. Aim to honor Him v. 14
3. Maintain obedience v 16
4. Keep company with those who are faithful vv 17-19

C. Live in the light of His coming: remembering that the Lord is *coming again and that truth (Titus 2:14 ff) should challenge us to live "prepared" for His return and our departure.*

1. Remember your citizenship v 20
2. Rejoice in His coming work v 21
3. And think of things in terms of his eventual power

III. Conclusion: We mature as we take Him at His Word, fellowship with Him and give our energies and hearts to His witness. I realize again that these are not complete thoughts and they need a lot more time but if we will put our energies with what we know, we may soon find it easier to know more and progress more efficiently.