

## Bible Study. Philippians Ch. 3

### 1. Opening Prayer

### 2. Intro: *Teleios*

adj. 1) brought to its end, finished, 2) wanting nothing necessary to completeness,  
3) perfect, 4) full grown

Plato thinks it as the perfect status in *idea*. By remembering the past of humanity when they were in the perfect form as soul, and by conforming to the remembrance, a human being can accomplish *teleios*.

Aristotle emphasizes action to reach *teleios*. Humanity has the principle of action toward a goal. *Teleios* implies that the goal is accomplished.

In the Old Testament, *tamim* might have had a similar notion to *teleios*.

Heart turned to God (1 Kings 8:6)

Blameless heart (Deuteronomy 18:13)

Unblemished-ness (Exodus 12:5, Leviticus 1:3)

#### a. Matthew

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (5:48)

God’s attribute, original attitude of Judaism (5:17),

core of righteousness (5:20), great commandment (22:37-39)

#### b. Philippians

to those who misunderstood “righteousness” coming from law not from faith. (3:8-9)

against morality-abolitionists and against gnosticism

eschatological (vv. 18-21) thus in the earnest progress on earth (vv. 12-14)

1:6, “he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion (*epiteleio: epi + teleo*)...”

3:12, “Not that I ... have already been made perfect (*teleiomi*)...”

3:15, “All of us who are mature (*teleios*) should take such a view of things...”

### 3. Read Philippians Ch. 3

#### 4. Discussion

- a. How do you understand the expression against the enemies in verse 2?
- b. Who would be the enemies of the church?
- c. How do you understand Paul's way of writing in verses 2-4?
- d. How come Paul says, "whatever gains I had, I have come to regard these as loss because of Christ" in verse 7?
- e. Can you tell the difference righteousness from the law and righteousness through the faith?
- f. What would be the object of the first sentence in verse 12? (In Greek text, there is no object in this sentence) And how do you understand this verse?
- g. How shall we understand "forgetting what is behind"?
- h. How do you understand "the prize"?
- i. Can you tell the difference between perfection in verse 12 and perfection in verse 15?
- j. Who would be the enemies of the cross of Christ in verse 18?
- k. Why do you think Paul talks about citizenship at the end of this chapter?

#### 5. Closing Prayer