

A photograph of a small green seedling with a single yellowing leaf, growing out of an open book. The roots of the seedling are visible, extending into the pages of the book. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown.

GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

“THE THREE STAGES OF PERFECTION”

Philippians 3

The HOUR OF POWER BIBLE STUDY via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 362 296 9704

Passcode: 840101

Thursday, November 19, 2020

9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Providence Missionary Baptist Church

8401 South Ashland Avenue - Chicago, Illinois 60620

(773) 238-5831

pmbc@providencechicago.org

Rev. Dr. William H. Foster, Jr. - Senior Pastor

Instructor

(PHILIPPIANS 3)

“THE THREE STAGES OF PERFECTION”

INTRODUCTION:

TOO MANY CHRISTIANS GET WRAPPED UP IN “THINGS” AND LOSE THE “JOY” THEY OUGHT TO HAVE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST...THEY FOCUS THEIR “MIND” ON “EARTHLY THINGS” → (vv 19b) → AND LACK THAT “SPIRITUAL MIND” OF THE DEDICATED BELIEVER...NOTICE HOW TIMES THE WORD → “THINGS” IS USED IN THIS CHAPTER...HERE PAUL DESCRIBES THE “SPIRITUAL MIND”, THE “MIND” THAT THINKS GOD’S THOUGHTS AND IS DIRECTED TOWARDS GOD’S GOALS...IN THIS CHAPTER PAUL DESCRIBES HIS “PAST”; “PRESENT”; AND “FUTURE” AND A FULL BIOGRAPHY OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE...PAUL SAYS → (1:6) → THAT ALL “STAGES OF PERFECTION” ARE GROUNDED IN FAITH IN CHRIST AND WHAT HE HAS DONE...NOT WHAT WE CAN DO FOR HIM...WE CANNOT “PERFECT” OURSELVES...ONLY GOD CAN WORK IN AND THROUGH US TO “CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS...LET’S TAKE A LOOK @ “THE THREE STAGES OF PERFECTION” ...

I). “PERFECT RELATIONSHIP” → “SALVATION” → A CHRISTIAN’S PAST” (vv 1-11) (v)

● “HE/WE WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT” (vv 1-3) (v)

● “HE/WE HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH” (vv 4) (v)

● “HE/WE BOASTS IN JESUS” (vv 5-7) (v)

● “HE/WE GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST” (vv 8) (v)

● “HE/WE GAIN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST” (vv 9) (v)

● “HE/WE GAIN THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRIST” (vv 10-11) (v)

II). **“PERFECT PROGRESS” → “SANCTIFICATION” → “A CHRISTIAN PRESENT”** (vv 12-16)

● **“HE/WE HAD/HAVE THE SPIRIT OF DISSATISFACTION”** (vv 12-13a)

● **“HE/WE HAD/HAVE THE SPIRIT OF DEVOTION”** (vv 13b)

● **“HE/WE HAD/HAVE THE SPIRIT OF DIRECTION”** (vv 13c)

● **“HE/WE HAD/HAVE THE SPIRIT OF DETERMINATION”** (vv 14)

● **“HE/WE HAD/HAVE THE SPIRIT OF DISCIPLINE”** (vv 15-16)

III). **“COMPLETELY PERFECT” → “GLORIFICATION” → “A CHRISTIAN FUTURE”** (vv 17-21)

● **“WE SHALL HAVE A HEAVENLY HOME”** (vv 20)

● **“WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM”** (vv 21)