

**That We May Know Him Phil 3:1-4:1**  
Dr. John Niemelä Water of Life March 9, 2017

**(3:1-2) Approve what matters: Rejoice in God, discount man's achievement**

What does Finally appearing twice in ancient Greek letters mean?

Finally #1 (3:1) signals that 3:1–4:7 is the last point of the letter's body

Finally #2 (4:8) signals that 4:8–23 is the epilog (after the letter's body)

Rejoice in the Lord (1:18; 2:17–18; 3:1; 4:4, 10)

**(3:1b–2) They are to [rejoice in God &] discount man's achievement**

Beware of dogs, beware of the mutilation (*katatomē*, not *peritomē*: "circumcision"),  
beware of evil workers

**(3:3–4) No need to rely on false confidences (no Judaiser would exceed Paul—but so what?)**

**(3:5–6) Paul's birth-status and attainments in life were significant**

Birth-status:

Circumcised the 8th day (observant parents)

Of the stock of Israel (not a proselyte)

Of the tribe of Benjamin (ancestors married within the tribe)

A Hebrew of Hebrews (could speak Aramaic/read Hebrew)

Attainments in life:

Concerning the law, a Pharisee

Concerning zeal, persecuting the church

Concerning law righteousness, blameless

**(3:7–8) He counts birth-status/attainments as loss so He may know Christ**

**(3:9) He wants his [experiential] righteousness to be thru faith, not self**

The verse does not discuss positional righteousness thru faith-alone.  
It considers believers living righteously through faith (after salvation).

**(3:10-11) He seeks to live righteously thru faith to know Christ, to know His resurrection power (in life), to join in His suffering, & to conform to His death & to attain to the standard of His resurrection.**

That I may know	Him,
A. and the power of	His resurrection,
B. and the fellowship of	His sufferings,
B`. being conformed to	His death,
A`. if by any means I may attain to	_____ resurrection.

1. The passage is a chiasm (the Greek letter khi:  $\chi$ ), as in Mat 7:6:

- A. Do not give what is holy to the dogs;
- B. nor cast your pearls before swine,
- B`. lest they [the swine] trample them under their feet,
- A`. and [the dogs] turn and tear you in pieces.

2. Emphasis on His/Him (in A, B, and B`). In my view, ditto for A`.

3. If so, 3:10-11 would parallel 1:19-20:

“For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.”

Chap 3 only makes sense, if  
 everlasting life is guaranteed, but rewards are not guaranteed,  
 everlasting life is a gift, but rewards are earned, and  
 everlasting life is distinct from rewards.

Hawthorne, *Philippians* (WBC), 43:149, 168, thinks Phil 3 makes little sense:

“Paul’s Greek at this point [3:12ff.] is difficult. Hence, it is not possible to see precisely how it relates to what has gone before. True, the new section does begin with a conjunction—*hoti* [that], but the ambiguous nature of this conjunction (= “that” or “because”) does not permit one to speak with any assurance. . . . One can only hope, therefore, to make an intelligent guess as to how vv 12-16 fit with vv 4-11... This section [3:20-21] seems not to fit easily with the context in which it is placed.”

No, Paul’s argument makes sense. We must heed Paul’s contextual flow.

Not that // I do not regard myself  
 I press on // I press on  
 Taking hold // being fully mature // reaching to things ahead // the prize

Not that		I already attained or am already matured
	I press on,	that I may lay hold of that...
not seeing self	reaching forward	to have apprehended,
forgetting past,	I press toward	to those things which are ahead,
		the goal for the prize, the upward call

**(3:12) He pursues the not-yet finished-course Christ gave him & maturing**

He does not want to be misunderstood in 3:1–11  
 Lay hold of = *katalambanō* Paul was mature; yet Christ continues to mature him  
 Thus, *mature* (trans. *perfect* in NKJV) v 12 reconciles with *mature* v 15

**(3:13-14) Past accomplishments do not distract from the prize: full reward**

Prize = *brabeion*. This is a rewards context.

**(3:15) All who are mature should focus w/o distraction on the prize: full reward, but God will clarify what they may not see things as Paul does**

**(3:16) Philippians/Paul are to aim single-mindedly at the prize: full reward**

**(3:17) Join & note those following Paul's example [following Christ]**

**(3:18) Unfortunately, many have defected & now oppose the gospel**

**(3:19) Earth-focused believers (who join 3:2's legalists) face discipline**

**(3:20-21) They face discipline because believers are heavenly citizens awaiting the rapture, when Christ will transform us (before subduing all)**

**(4:1) Believers (for whom Paul will give an account) must stand fast in God**

**CONCLUSION**