

# BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

## Hele On!

Philippians 3:12-21

2008

### Introduction

“Hele On!” is a local phrase that means, “Let’s go!” Or “Get moving!”

In our last passage, in Philippians 3:1-11, Paul was contrasting his life before Christ and his life after Christ. In this context he revealed the true passion of his life when he said, “whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

And since the day of his encounter with Christ on the Road to Damascus, he had no other passion or goal but to “Hele On!” in his relationship with the Lord!

### I Paul’s Acknowledgement

A. He had not **obtained** all this, referring to: [Verse 12a]

1. The full **knowledge** of Christ - Phil 3:10a
2. The full **power** of His resurrection - Phil 3:10b
3. The full **fellowship** of his sufferings - Phil 3:10c

We might be tempted to think that Paul had “arrived” and was free from the kinds of temptations, struggles and even failures that we experience. But he assures us this was not so!

**Application:** The joy of living an honest, transparent, truthful life!

Prov 16:13 “Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth.”

B. He had not been made **perfect** [Verse 12b]

**Perfect** = Teleios = “To be mature or complete”

Paul states three times, “**I have not yet arrived**” (see verses 10-11, 14, 16).

1. Salvation: An event marking the reconciliation of God to man through faith in Christ
2. Sanctification: A lifelong journey of transformation into the likeness of Jesus Christ  
Phil 1:25 “Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress [prokope] and joy in the faith ...”

**Application:** The pathway to spiritual maturity and completion?

James 1:2-4 “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

Romans 5:3-5; James 4:12-13

## II Paul's Commitment

A. To **press** on [Verse 12c-13a]

**Press on** = Dioko = "To aggressively pursue"

It has reference to a hunter pursuing his prey, or a runner chasing the finish line.

Phil 3:6 "... as for zeal, persecuting [Dioko] the church."

1. To take hold of His God-ordained purpose

**Take hold** = Katalambano = "To seize or possess"

**"Why did Christ Jesus lay hold of Paul?"**

1. To transform him

Rom 8:28-30 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son ..."

2. To transmit the gospel through him

In the first two chapters thus far in Philippians, Paul has mentioned the priority the gospel has in his life and ministry seven times!

Acts 20:24 "I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."

3. To translate him

1 Cor 15:51-52 "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed -- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

**Application:** Why has Christ Jesus laid hold of you?

To transform you! To transmit the gospel through you! To translate you!

B. To remain focused on the goal by: [Verse 13b-14]

"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But **"One thing I do ..."**

**Our problem?** We try to do too many things and end up doing nothing well!

Not Paul! Though he had the ability and talent to excel in virtually any arena of life, he made a strategic decision to devote himself to doing **"One thing"** well!

Ps 27:4 "One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple."

1. **Forgetting** what is behind

**What past things should we be forgetting?**

a. Our sins and failures of the past

Don't allow the failures of the past to cripple you from moving forward!

You will never win your race if you are looking backward!

Prov 24:16 "... though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again"

**Note:** This is not a "green light" to leave your sin unreconciled!

- Have you sinned against a brother or sister? Confess and repent of it!
- Have you stolen something? Make restitution!
- Have you failed to pay a debt? Pay it off!
- Have you violated someone? Make it right!
- Have you neglected a promised commitment? Get it done!

b. Our past successes and victories

Replaying our past victories to the point of failing to continue to push ahead.

Luke 9:62 "Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

2. Straining toward what is ahead

**Straining toward** = Epekteinomai = "To reach or stretch forward"

The image is like that of runner leaning forward to beat his opponent to the tape.

Heb 12:1-3 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

**Illustration:** Tarzan, King of the Jungle (Vine to Vine = Divine!!)

Swinging from vine to vine requires two simultaneous actions:

"Letting go and reaching forward"!!

3. **Pressing** on toward the goal to win the prize

**Prize** = Brabeion = "An award in the public games"

It is like an Olympic athlete who trains tirelessly to obtain the gold medal.

Keeping that goal in mind helps them persevere through the challenges of training.

1 Cor 9:24 "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get [Katalambano] the prize."

a. For which God had called him heavenward in Christ

2 Tim 4:7-8 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the

Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day -- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

**Application:** What prize are you aiming to win? What images should motivate you?

1. To live a life that is worthy of Christ Jesus and to please Him – Phil 1:27
2. To have your family and friends commend your life at your funeral
3. To see and speak with Jesus Christ, face to face, for the very first time!
4. To have your life reviewed in heaven without any sense of regret or shame
5. To be surrounded by grateful believers who are there because of your witness
6. To stand before the Father – have Him give you a great big bear hug and say,  
“Well Done, my good and faithful servant!! Enter into the joy of your Master’s happiness!”
7. To receive your reward at the Bema Seat and to rule and reign with Jesus Christ!

### III Paul’s Invitation

All of us who are **mature** [Teleios] should ...

A. Take such a view of things [Verse 15]

1. Those who are mature will share this view

Col 1:28-29 “We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect [Teleios ] in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.”

2. Those who think differently on some point:

a. God will make it **clear**

**Make it clear** = Apokalupto = “To disclose or reveal”

While we have a responsibility to rebuke and correct a believer who is in sin (2 Tim 3:16), only God can change their heart!

Ps 25:8-9 “Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.”

B. Live up to what you already attained [Verse 16]

**Attained** = Phthano = “To have arrived at or already experienced”

Col 2:6-7 “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

C. Join with others in following Paul’s **example**: [Verse 17]

**Join with others** = Summimetes = “A co-imitator”

Men like Epaphroditus and Timothy – Phil 2:19-30

**Paul frequently encouraged others to follow his example:**

1 Cor 4:16 “Therefore I urge you to imitate me.”

1 Cor 11:1 “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

Phil 4:9 “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me -- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

1. Take note of those who live according to this **pattern**

**Pattern** = Tupos = “A die, stamp, model”

1 Thess 1:6-7 “You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model [Tupos] to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.” [A chain reaction of Christ-like modeling!]

Heb 13:7 “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”

**Application:** We should be good imitators **AND** good examples!

1. This is especially true of those who serve as elders - He 13:7; 1 Pet 5:1-3
2. This is especially true of those who teach God's Word - 1 Ti 4:12; Ti 2:7-8

#### IV Paul's Reminder

- A. Many live as enemies of the cross [Verse 18-19]

Col 1:21 “Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.”

##### How are they enemies?

1. They reject salvation through the cross
2. They withhold the message of the cross

1. Their destiny is **destruction**

**Destruction** = Apoleia = “Ruin, loss, damnation”

Phil 1:27-29 “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed [Apoleia], but that you will be saved-and that by God.”

**Application:** The value of mentally rehearsing the full consequence of sin!

2. Their god is their stomach

**Stomach** = Koilia = “Belly; fleshly appetites or passions”

Ex 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before me.”

##### Examples of those who are governed by their passions:

1. Those who are controlled by gluttony
2. Those who compromise with sin to be accepted by the world
3. Those who spend money they don't have for things they don't need
4. Those who justify sexual immorality

5. Those who are prone to laziness and irresponsible living
6. Those who are marked by significant character deficiencies

3. Their glory is their **shame**

They take pride in things they should be ashamed about!

**Illustration:** A young man who was having relations with his step-mother

1 Cor 5:1-2 “It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?”

Rom 1:28-32 “Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”

**Application:** As believers, we must renounce this worldly model of living!

1 Peter 4:3-5 “For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do -- living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

4. Their mind is on **earthly** things

They are looking to earthly applause rather than heavenly approval. They want present satisfaction rather than heavenly joy. They want to preserve this life at any cost . . . even the denial of faith. They are building a kingdom on earth rather than in Heaven.

Ps 17:14 “O LORD, by your hand save me from such men, from men of this world whose reward is in this life.”

B. In contrast, believers live as friends of the cross **[Verse 20-21]**

Col 3:1-4 “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

1. Our **citizenship** is in heaven

**Citizenship** = Politeuma = “(Politics), conversation, or community”

Heb 11:13-16 “All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country -- a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”

**If we are citizens of heaven, it means that we are resident aliens on earth. And if we are resident aliens, then that means ...**

- a. We don't belong here. As comfortable as we may be, this is not our home.
- b. We will never find lasting satisfaction here.
- c. We are not to be loyal to this world but to God.
- d. We have Heaven's resources at our disposal.

**We also have a certain privileges as citizens of heaven:**

- a. We share in heaven's honors.
  - b. We enjoy property rights in heaven & look forward to the place prepared for us.
  - c. We have full right to the pleasures of heaven.
  - d. We long for heaven and feel attached there because we belong there.
  - e. We stay in touch as often as we like with our native home through prayer.
- a. We eagerly await a Savior from there  
 Acts 1:9-11 “After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

2. Our Savior will bring **everything** under His control

***Under His control*** = Hupotasso = “To subdue or put in subjection”

Matt 28:18 “Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Eph 1:22 “And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church ...”

**Application:** What comfort! In the end, Jesus will bring everything under His control!

3. Our physical bodies will dramatically change

- a. He will **transform** our lowly bodies

***Transform*** = Metaschematizo = “To transfigure”

***Meta*** = Change

**Schema** = “External condition”

Rom 8:23 “Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

Paul probably looked forward to this since his body had a lot of wear on it:

1. He had been beaten, imprisoned, stoned and left for dead.
2. He also had a "thorn in the flesh" (a physical ailment?)
3. He was getting older with accompanying limits to his physical ability.

**Quote:** Joni Eareckson Tada

“One day no more bulging middles or balding tops. No varicose veins or crow's-feet. No more cellulite or support hose. Forget the thunder thighs and highway hips. Just a quick leapfrog over the tombstone and it's the body you've always dreamed of. Fit and trim, smooth and sleek.”

b. He will make them like His glorious body

**Make them like** = Summorphos = “Conformed to or fashioned like unto”

When we are resurrected, we will have the same type of body that Jesus Himself had when he was resurrected.

Rom 8:29 “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

1 John 3:2 “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

## Conclusion

**“Hele On!” Let’s get on with it! Let’s make our lives count! Let’s live for God!**

**Unbelievers:** Get reconciled with God

1. Admit and confess your sin to God
2. Believe that Jesus, God’s One and Only Son, died on the cross for your sin
3. Confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master

**Believers:**

1. Learn to swing on vines! Forget and reach!
2. Live up to what you have attained! Don’t ever go back!!
3. Follow good models and be a good model!
4. Remember, you are a resident alien of this world, but a citizen of the Kingdom of God!

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