

11-15-15
MOVING FORWARD FOR THE LORD IN 2016

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Philippians 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Philippians 3:16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Ezekiel 46:8 And when the prince shall enter, he shall go in by the way of the porch of that gate, and he shall go forth by the way thereof.

Ezekiel 46:9 But when the people of the land shall come before the LORD in the solemn feasts, he that entereth in by the way of the north gate to worship shall go out by the way of the south gate; and he that entereth by the way of the south gate shall go forth by the way of the north gate: he shall not return by the way of the gate whereby he came in, but shall go forth over against it.

Ezekiel 46:10 And the prince in the midst of them, when they go in, shall go in; and when they go forth, shall go forth.

Paul said

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Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

I shared a similar text last year about this time from Ezekiel..

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Ezekiel 46:9 But when the people of the land shall come before the LORD in the solemn feasts, he that entereth in by the way of the north gate to worship shall go out by the way of the south gate; and he that entereth by the way of the south gate shall go forth by the way of the north gate: he shall not return by the way of the gate whereby he came in, but shall go forth over against it.

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It is a good reminder.. of moving forward into the next year.. so once again I thought we should look at it as we come near to the end of the year.. It is hard to believe that we are coming to the

end of another year.. The Lord by His grace .. has let us live to this point.. Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the holiday season..

Thanksgiving.. then Christmas.. then the new year.. I had to remind brother Lee Mynyk that we needed to start working on our 2016 Birthday Calendar..

Do you know that this time of the year is many things to many people..

For some it is a busy time of hustle and bustle
For some it is a time of family, fun, and food..
For some it is a time of depression.. thinking back.. another year is gone..

We use that expression TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE..
We are all governed by the clock like it or not..

One thing about time is this..

You cannot change the past.. we can only learn from it..
We live in the present, and wise people make the most of it..
What we do in the present will affect the future.. if we are wise, hopefully we will affect the future for the best..

So as we look at coming to the hustle and bustle of another holiday season..

As we gather together today in the house of God.. to read the Word of God..
I thought to speak to you about our walk with the Lord .. in this short life he has allotted us..

All of this life is but a picture of spiritual truth .. So often the Lord orchestrated the worship of his people in the Bible in a manner that would illustrate spiritual truth.. We don't do that much in our heathen gentile culture.. In fact we don't have much culture at all..

When I was in the Philippines .. Benny Abante made everyone to take their shoes off when they went into the church..

Well, the Lord in His future Church in the Millennium Kingdom.. is going to orchestrate and mandate that everyone that comes into the future temple has to go in by one door and out a different door..

IF YOU COME IN THE NORTH GATE YOU HAVE TO GO OUT THE SOUTH ..
SOUTH -NORTH
NORTH - SOUTH

Everyone else was to enter by one gate and leave by the opposite..
SOUTH TO NORTH or
NORTH TO SOUTH .. all in a straight line..

Matthew Henry Says:

Some observe that this may remind us, in the service of God, to be still pressing forward and not to go back, and in our attendance upon ordinances, not to go back as we came, but more holy, and heavenly and spiritual.

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Ezekiel 46:9 But when the people of the land shall come before the LORD in the solemn feasts, he that entereth in by the way of the north gate to worship shall go out by the way of the south gate; and he that entereth by the way of the south gate shall go forth by the way of the north gate: he shall not return by the way of the gate whereby he came in, but shall go forth over against it.

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The reasons for this was only because of the spiritual picture it represented:

1. It was not for flow of traffic.....

2. *It was a spiritual picture of what He wants His people to do when they come to worship him*

Spiritual pictures is what spirituality is all about.. What you do in the flesh either pleases God or displeases God.. and obedience to His commands alone pleases Him.. We are not under the law but under grace.. that does not mean we are lawless and just do anything we want.. it means that we now will want to do from the heart those things that please Christ..

He said if you love me keep my commandments..

Pictures in the Old Testament.. the priests needed to picture spotless lambs..

Deuteronomy 24:3-5 says that if a man divorces his wife.. and she marries another it is an abomination in the eyes of the Lord if he takes her back..

We live in a day and age when anything goes, morally, sexually .. etc..

Do you realize John the Baptist had his head cut off because he rebuked Herod for marrying his brother's wife.. I wonder what he would say about homosexuals getting married?

Pictures.. spiritual pictures are important..

Do you know why things may be going wrong in your life..

Do you know why it seems the devil is always on your back..

I Cor. 11:10 says that improper dress either offends or please the angels..

So it is ..

WHATEVER YOU DO WHETHER YOU EAT OR DRINK DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF THE LORD..

The way you dress either repels demons or draws them

The music you listen to either offends good angels or draws them..

The music you listen to either offends demons or draws them..

PROOF WHEN SAUL WAS OPPRESSED BY A DEMON WHAT DID HE DO TO GET RELIEF?

He had David play some Godly music..

Everything you do.. either grieves the Holy Spirit and Good Angels
Or What you do draws good angels and the Holy Spirit..

Everything you do.. either draws demons and devils or repels them..

WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED WHEN THE DEVIL SHOWS UP AT YOUR DOOR WHEN YOU
HAVE A BUNCH OF DUNG LYING AROUND THE HOUSE.. DUNG DRAWS FLIES..

Just like physical dung draws physical plies..
Spiritual dung draws spiritual flies..

One of the names of the devil is Beelzebub The Name literally means
LORD OF THE FLIES

I believe all this piercing and this tattoo business today is nothing less than preparation for the
mark of the beast that Satan will institute..

What is the big deal to get one more tattoo from the government?

When we renovated our church I wanted things to represent something..
So I prayed that we could get tongue and groove for ceiling and keep the ceiling as light and
bright as possible.. to remind us of Heaven..

The reason old churches had stained glass windows was to remind us to keep the world out of
the church.. Everything we do should represent something ..

WHY GO IN ONE GATE AND OUT THE OTHER.. IN THE FUTURE TEMPLE.
THE REASON IS IT IS A SPIRITUAL PICTURE.. AND IT REPRESENTS SOMETHING..

Truth is it is more practical.. it makes more sense.. to not do it this way.. most of you go out the
same door you come in...

You probably park near a certain door and then go out the same way....

5 possible doors to enter & Exit this building.....
Probably you enter the door closest to your car..

So it was with the Israelites - they would naturally enter the gate closest to where they live and
would be commanded to leave through the gate furthest from where they came in... It would be
an inconvenience..

Why is it in worship we want everything to convenience the people???

No doubt some people would wonder why the Lord would want His people to go through all of
this inconvenience.....

HERE IS THE EXPLANATION:

***1. When you go to God's house to meet with God you should not return home the
same way you came in.....***

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

So many people do not want to change, they think they are all right and have no need of betterment....

Fellow visited Church and I announced the text Psalm 8..

Fellow closed his Bible.. Said he already heard a message on that passage.. Not here, but someplace else..

Have we arrived?

NONSENSE.....

Millennial Kingdom..... Lord says.... don't go back the way you came in....
Go home a different way... walking different, talking a little different....

Every Sabbath they will have to come in one gate and left by another..

PRESSING FORWARD..

I John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

I John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Only One is sinless and in need of no change:

Ezekiel 46:8 And when the prince shall enter, he shall go in by the way of the porch of that gate, and he shall go forth by the way thereof.

The prince Jesus who shall enter in at a certain gate, can go back through that same gate....
He alone is perfect and his ways are perfect...

He doesn't have to change his direction.....

Come to Church, sit in same pew, Ho hum... no need of change no need of repentance...
need nothing..... BAD.... SAD.....

What is interesting is that there is an eastern Gate.. and only the Messiah was allowed to enter in by that gate.. and He alone could exit by that gate..

In 1517 the Turks conquered Jerusalem under the leadership of Suleiman the Magnificent. He commanded that the city's ancient walls be rebuilt, and in the midst of this rebuilding project, for some unknown reason, he ordered that the Eastern Gate be sealed up with stones.

Legends abound as to why Suleiman closed the Gate. The most believable one is that while the walls were being rebuilt, a rumor swept Jerusalem that the Messiah was coming. Suleiman called together some Jewish rabbis and asked them to tell him about the Messiah. They described the Messiah as a great military leader who would be sent by God from the east. He would enter the Eastern Gate and liberate the city from foreign control.

Suleiman then decided to put an end to Jewish hopes by ordering the Eastern Gate sealed. He also put a Muslim cemetery in front of the Gate, believing that no Jewish holy man would defile himself by walking through a Muslim cemetery.

The year was 1967. The occasion was the Six Day War.

June 7 - the Israeli army broke through the Lion's Gate and returned control of the ancient city of Jerusalem to the Jewish people for the first time in 1,897 years.

One of the Jewish commando groups that had been involved in the assault on the city said some members of the group had suggested catching the Jordanian defenders of the city off guard by blowing open the sealed Eastern Gate. But the leader of the group, an Orthodox Jew, had vehemently protested the idea, stating that "the Eastern Gate can be opened only when the Messiah comes."

Ezekiel 44:1 Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut.

Ezekiel 44:2 Then said the LORD unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the LORD, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut.

Ezekiel 44:3 It is for the prince; the prince, he shall sit in it to eat bread before the LORD; he shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall go out by the way of the same.

Ezekiel 46:8 And when the prince shall enter, he shall go in by the way of the porch of that gate, and he shall go forth by the way thereof.

Ezekiel 46:9 But when the people of the land shall come before the LORD in the solemn feasts, he that entereth in by the way of the north gate to worship shall go out by the way of the south gate; and he that entereth by the way of the south gate shall go forth by the way of the north gate: he shall not return by the way of the gate whereby he came in, but shall go forth over against it.

Only God is perfect, only Christ is without sin..... Only He can enter in by the Eastern gate..

Why do you come to meet God in this house of assembly?

You should desire to leave here a changed person....

You should not want to go home the same way you came here.....

1. Do you come to Church wanting to be changed?
2. or Do you want to go home the same kind of person.....

II. After you have come to Church you should move forward in your walk with the Lord:

1. God never leads us backwards but forwards:

The only time we are led back is when we need to get back to the ways of God, and we have gotten off the straight and narrow way.....

After God took the children of Israel out of Egypt... God never led them back....

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Philippians 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.
Philippians 3:16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.
Philippians 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

God want us to make greater and deeper commitments for Him.....
God wants to lead us in our spiritual walk with Him to greater things

When you come to Church you should not walk out the door the same person, you should come here asking God to speak to your heart..
You should be praying for direction and guidance...

2. ***When you come to God's house, you should be willing to go out of your way to walk in closer fellowship with God....***

The Old Testament administration of the North and South Gates..

Walking with God means you are willing to be inconvenienced...
Go out of your way to walk in His ways and ordinances....

3. ***This is a progressive and forward walk with the Lord:
We call this progressive sanctification..***

Each time we come to the house of God we should move forward for the Lord:

This means progressive growth:

We need to move forward for the Lord.....
Deeper commitments

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A. Forgetting those things that are behind.....

These are the sins and foolish things we have allowed in our lives at one time... For Paul this was a life where he was seeking salvation by the righteousness of his works.. PHARISEE..

We need to leave behind us these sins that at one time consumed our lives...

B. We need to press forward not retracing the same mistakes of the past....
We press forward to perfection:

III. God has a unique pilgrimage for each of us:

Press forward looking to Christ..

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

I Corinthians 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

FOLLOW HIM BECAUSE HE IS THE ONLY PERFECT EXAMPLE.. AND WHEN PAUL SAID FOLLOW HIM .. HE ADDED AS I AM OF CHRIST..

Ezekiel 46:9 But when the people of the land shall come before the LORD in the solemn feasts, he that entereth in by the way of the north gate to worship shall go out by the way of the south gate; and he that entereth by the way of the south gate shall go forth by the way of the north gate: he shall not return by the way of the gate whereby he came in, but shall go forth over against it.

So we press forward.. for the Lord..

Some who have come from the north exit to the south

Some enter from the south exit to the north...

East to West or West to East...

We are quick to judge others who do not seem to be going the same direction as we in the service of the Lord: God is our judge and we must travel the path that God has led us to travel.....

Problem we have is that each one sees things from a different perspective:

Romans 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Romans 14:8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

So often we judge from the outward appearance and not from the heart....

Is a person seeking to walk with God? Are they walking with the Lord, and trying to follow Him in their lives?

We need to allow each person liberty with the Lord to follow their conscience:

As we look at how quickly, over and over, a year has come and gone.. let us press forward.. let us say

Philippians 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Do you keep leaving this church through the same gate that you entered....

You know there is something God wants you to be doing but you're not doing it....

There is some sin that makes you hold back.....
What is it?

Let us leave it behind us .. and let us press on to perfection ..

The Apostle Paul said..

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Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Philippians 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

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