

Philippians Chapter Three

3:1 Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

The reference cannot be explained from the epistle itself since it does not supply to a topic that satisfies two conditions (1) occurring in the immediate context and (2) being repeated elsewhere in this letter.

1 Corinthians 5:9 "I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people" was not the topic of this epistle. another? alludes to a previous letter.

2 Corinthians 10:10-11 "letters" [plural] "For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing. Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present."

Colossians 4:16 "After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea." did not reference the church at Ephesus.

"And all events indications are not wanting of other letters." - Lightfoot

At least 14 years elapsed between Paul's conversion and his third visit to Jerusalem (A.D. 51). The Epistles to the Corinthians (1 & 2) which probably followed next in order after The Epistles to the Thessalonians were not written until A.D. 57 — the whole period would be 20 to 23 years according to one reckoning.

On Phil 3:7 "loss" cp Matthew 16:16 "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

1:8 "garbage" animal excrement, etc. excrement in general as well as thrown out left overs (compost). uneatable, non-nutritive.

not "all things' but "The all things" somewhat stronger. i.e. Romans 8:32 "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us THE all things?"

"to gain Christ" Gain is a financial term: living your life in the light of eternity. Lay up treasures in heaven. Not Paul's letter is not a theology or an apologetic, but a person. Salvation is not a religion but a relationship.

:10 "to know Him" cp 2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life **through our knowledge of him** who called us by his own glory and goodness.

:13 forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, -spoken of a runner stretching out at the finish line to break the tape —never look back!

Whoever thought of our "heavenward calling" as a "prize." and we are in a contest to win it!

:15 as many as be perfect, be thus minded, i.e. grown and mature believers **make this their rule** to forget past achievements and disappointments and look ahead, "press forward."

:16 Nevertheless, whereto we have *already attained*, let us ~~walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.~~ [πλὴν εἰς ὁ ἐφθάσαμεν (ετε) τῷ αὐτῷ στοιχεῖν κανόνι, τὸ ἀυτὸ φρονεῖν]

attained the word "already" is in the word. 1 Thessalonians 4:15 "we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord **shall not prevent** [shall not go ahead of] them which are asleep."

walk in an orderly way - a life ordered by following Jesus

:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an *example*

example 1 Peter 5:3 "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock."

Here Lightfoot comments "If the view which I have taken be correct, the persons here denounced are not the Judaizing teachers, but the antinomian reactionists."

antinomian - relating to the view that Christians are released by grace from the obligation of observing the moral law.

3:18 have told you often, and now tell you even **weeping** [as a child, audibly, as a sign of pain and grief], that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ!!!!!!

3:19 their god is their belly. Romans 16:18 "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

3:20-21 But our **citizenship** is in heaven. And we **eagerly await** a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will **transform** our lowly bodies so that they will **be like his glorious body**.

citizenship (1) "the state, the constitution, as citizens we belong" (2) the functions which as citizens we perform." -Lightfoot

eagerly await to assiduously [with great care and perseverance] and patiently wait for [scarcely found outside the New Testament]

transform ... to be like.... "change the *fashion*" - Lightfoot. to be *conformable* [see 1 Corinthians 15:35-53] The difference between fashion and form is notable.

1 Corinthians 15:40, 42, 44, 52 "heavenly bodies .. imperishable ... spiritual ... we will be changed."

I John 3:2 "when Christ appears, we shall be like him"