

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 36

Chapter 3, verse 15-17: Responding to the Truth of God's Word

26 December 2022

Vs 15 “Let us therefore, as many as be perfect (fully mature in the Christian faith) **be thus minded.**” The mature Christian will allow the troubles and trials of their life to help them to become more like Christ.

“...and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.”

What God can do: God can bring to your mind any area where you are not living in accord with His will, where you are lacking faith, lacking Christian duty, lacking obedience, etc., so that you can take necessary steps towards becoming a mature, fully developed, and completely blessed Christian.

- God speaks through the convicting work of the **indwelling Holy Spirit** (utilizing our conscience), confirmed by the word of God.
- God speaks through the **Holy Scriptures**. We search the scriptures to answer our troubled conscience.
 - The scriptures will reveal the thing in our life that is displeasing the Lord.
 - The scriptures will also help you to rule out the things that are not a problem.
- God speaks to us through **His people** (preachers, teachers, brethren) as they quote from the Holy Bible, showing us the areas where we are not yet perfect.

What God cannot do: God cannot force you to correct the deficiencies in your spiritual life if you are not willing. God is not going to force you to serve Him against your will.

Vs 16 “...whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule...” As you grow in the Lord, you will gain knowledge of things you know to be true and right from the Bible. God expects you to be walking in those proper paths, obeying all the truths that have been revealed to you.

- But remember that not all the brethren have the same amount of light that you have. Don't judge too harshly.
- God knows whether you are wilfully rejecting, and therefore violating known truth, or not. He will deal with you differently, depending on whether you are rejecting the truth or are unaware of it.

Vs 17 “Brethren, be followers together of me ...” It is wrong to say, “*I don't follow any man.*” If you want to be a good Christian, you will follow, listen to, take correction from, and learn from other Christians who properly demonstrate what it is to be a good Christian.

- If you refuse to follow anyone's example and won't take rebuke or correction from others, you have no desire to be a good Christian.

“...as ye have us for an ensample.” “Ensample” is the plural form of “example.” New modern bibles have removed the distinction between singular and plural and do not have this beneficial word that provides a greater depth of meaning.

- We can greatly benefit by following every man, woman, boy, and girl who is walking in the right way. We can learn from anyone who is going in the right direction toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (vs 14).