

Walking By The Same Rule

“Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing” (Phil. 3:16).

A dear pastor friend, Rev. Tommy Nichols, was conversing with me by phone about my arrival time and the motel where I would be staying. Because his church is at least twenty miles from the motel and there are several roads involved, I asked him to go over the directions again. After giving me the general directions to the church, he added, “Brother Tom, just come the same way you came when you were here before.”

I don’t use a GPS to help guide me to a specific address or location, but I was told that the church is not even on a GPS. I do know it is way out in the country, and it is one of those places you don’t just happen upon. Believe it or not, I took all the right turns and arrived just in time for the first song on Sunday morning. I took the pastor’s advice and attempted to go the same way I had traveled when I was there before.

That is the message of the text before us. The words, “whereto we have already attained,” indicate “to which we have already come, or arrived at.” And with that stated, we are exhorted to “walk by the same rule.” Or, could I say it this way? “Just come the same way you came before. Don’t take a different road, a new way, or another path.” Let’s re-examine the context and see exactly what is being taught.

We are to continue to walk after the Savior! Earlier the Apostle made it clear that those things that were “gain” to him, he “counted loss for Christ” (3:7). He also said that he counted them as “dung” that he might “win Christ” (3:8). His deep desire was to “know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings” (3:10). Since walking after Jesus has brought us to this place, we must continue walking after Him.

We are to continue to walk according to the Scriptures! The statements in this chapter are not merely the conclusions and recommendations of Paul to the saints at Philippi. We are reading the divine Scriptures, the Word of God, that which the Spirit of God inspired him to write. By His Word, the Bible, God has guided us thus far in the Christian journey, and we must continue to adhere to what is written in the Book.

We are to continue to walk along with the saints! The next few verses admonish believers to be “followers together” of Paul and to observe other saints who “walk” in the way of the cross (3:17). While there are “many” who “walk” in a way that reveals that they are “the enemies of the cross of Christ” (3:18), we are to move along the road of holiness with those who identify with Christ and His cross and “look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ” (3:20).