



*Next*

**Pastor Stewart McWilliams**  
**May 20, 2007**

**Philippians 3:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh <sup>4</sup> though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> 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 <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

NIV

**Doing the Next Takes:**

1. A Proper Perspective on the Past - *“I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.”*

**Key Truth:** What the world offers as satisfying is fleeting.

*Mark 8:36*

*Matthew 6:19-21*

**Key Truth:** Satisfaction in the Christian life needs to be based on what we are doing not on what we have done.

2. A Clarity of Focus - *“But one thing I do...”*

*Psalms 27:4*

3. An Understanding of the Journey - *“Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead”*

**Key Truth:** I don't have the right as a Christian to live perpetually in my mistakes.

*Hebrews 10:17*

4. A Great Determination - *“I press on towards the goal”*

*Matthew 25:21*

**Key Challenge:** Embrace What's Next!