



Those Things Before

This Artios letter is a continuation of the June and July Artios letters on the subject of Phil 3:13. A semi-final word on Phil 3:13 and the things which are before.

(Phil 3:13 KJV) 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,*

The Greeks used *emprosthen* to mean – in front of, (time or place), against, at, before, in presence, sight of. It is derived from the preposition “en” (ἐν), meaning “in” or “on,” and the verb “pros” (πρός), which carries the notion of “toward” or “facing.” The single word “before” might not capture it’s fullness. It’s meaning should be a combination of those words, meaning ‘in front of’ or ‘facing’. A venture through verses that contain this exciting word will



shed light on the many things that we could face.

What things could we have in front of us that we should be stretching forth to?

Men:

(Mat 5:16 KJV) Let your light so shine **before** men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Let your light shine when you face other people.

Swine:

(Mat 7:6 KJV) Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls **before**

swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

We are talking about taking pearls out into the world, right? There will be time that you encounter swine. Jesus warned us; we are to heed his warning—don’t cast your pearls to them.

Men and God:

(Mat 10:32 KJV) Whosoever therefore shall confess me **before** men, him will I confess also **before** my Father which is in heaven.

When facing others, confess Jesus Christ.

A road, progress:

(Mat 11:10 KJV) For this is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger **before** [pro – also means before thy face], which shall prepare thy way before thee.

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Jesus shall prepare the way ahead.

The truth:

(Mat 11:26 KJV) Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy **sight**.

Jesus Christ was the truth; before God, his example was good.

A transfiguration:

(Mat 17:2 KJV) And was transfigured **before** them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

These men faced a transfiguration. The experience was brighter than bright and whiter than white.

Evil works before men:

(Mat 23:13 KJV) But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven **against** men: for ye neither go in *your-selves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

The Pharisees were evil men; most still are. Men may have to face this evil.

Jesus Christ:

(Mat 25:32 KJV) And **before** him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:

All Gentile nations will face Jesus Christ and then be divided, sheep from goats.

Liars before the many:

(Mat 26:70 KJV) But he denied **before** *them* all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

Peter denied Jesus six times. His denials took place for all to see.

Before governors:

(Mat 27:11 KJV) And Jesus stood **before** the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

Jesus was tried by a governor; he stood before this man.

Judgment seats:

(Acts 18:17 KJV) Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief

ruler of the synagogue, and beat *him* before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.

(2 Cor 5:10 KJV) For we must all appear **before** the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it* be good or bad.

We see two examples of judgment seats—one evil and the one of Christ holy. We will appear on this seat facing Christ. In our case, it won't be for judgment; it will be to give account of ourselves, and then to receive rewards for standing in this world as a Christian.

Before the Church [of Galatians]:

(Gal 2:14 KJV) But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter **before** *them* all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

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Peter confronted the Galatians. They had a difficult time giving up their past Jewish religion. They demanded that the Gentiles adopt their outdated Jewish ways. They were not stretching forth unto the Christian way of life.

Things in front of you:

(Phil 3:13 KJV) 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**,

We are told to stretch forth unto those things along our paths that we find ourselves facing.

The return of Jesus Christ:

(1 Th 2:19 KJV) For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the **presence** of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

In anticipation of the Gathering Together, we shall face our Lord Jesus Christ when he returns for us.

Before God:

(1 Th 1:3 KJV) Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the **sight** of God and our Father;

(1 Th 3:9 KJV) For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes **before** our God;

(1 Th 3:13 KJV) To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

(1 John 3:19 KJV) And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts **before** him.

These verses only capture a few 'things' that we face. All the while, we face our God.

In Summary:

These verses provide an enduring list of what we might face in the Christian walk, as

we live the more than abundant life. Just like the individuals did when they faced . . .;

- Other people,
- swine,
- the prepared way,
- truth,
- transfigurations,
- evil works done by evil men,
- Jesus Christ,
- liars,
- deniers of the faith,
- governors,
- judgment seats,
- quite literally all that is before you,
- the Gathering Together,
- and God Almighty,

. . . We *might* face them all, but we are to stretch forth unto some very specific things.

The short list:

- Other people,
- the prepared way,
- The truth,
- Jesus Christ,
- all that is before you,
- the Gathering Together,
- and God Almighty,

(Phil 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I do,

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forgetting those things
which are behind, and
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before,

Now we know what this verse means. Stop allowing past things to follow you around, harassing you day after day. Start stretching forth unto: other people, the prepared way, the truth, Jesus Christ, all that is before you [to evaluate if it is worth your time], the Gathering Together, and most importantly, God Almighty. This will help put your house in order and enhance your walk to live the more than abundant life.

Much Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown