

Philippians 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

Analysis

Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing (πλὴν εἰς ὃ ἐφθάσαμεν, τῷ αὐτῷ στοιχεῖν, plēn eis ho ephthasa men, tō autō stoichein)—Plēn ("nevertheless, in any case") introduces qualification. Eis ho ephthāsamen ("to which we have attained")—whatever maturity level reached. Tō autō stoichein ("walk by the same rule")—stoicheō ("to be in line, march in formation, follow") suggests military order or measured pace. Tō autō ("the same") could mean same rule/standard (gospel) or same manner (pursuing Christ). Paul calls for consistency: live according to truth already understood, don't regress. While awaiting further revelation (v. 15b), walk faithfully in present light.

Historical Context

Military metaphor (stoicheō) pictures soldiers marching in formation—coordinated, disciplined, unified movement toward objective. Paul uses this for Christian living (Gal 5:25, 6:16; Rom 4:12). The command balances pursuit of growth (vv. 12-14) with faithfulness to present understanding. Ancient churches had varied maturity; Paul calls for unity in following gospel revealed thus far while trusting Spirit for progressive illumination.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What truth have you 'already attained' that requires faithful walking, not just knowing?
2. How do you balance pursuing further growth with living out present understanding?
3. What does 'walking by the same rule' (tō autō stoichein) look like in your church community?

Interlinear Text

πλὴν	εἰς	ὃ	ἐφθάσαμεν	τῷ	αὐτο
Nevertheless	whereto	G3739	we have already attained	G3588	by the same
G4133	G1519		G5348		G846
στοιχεῖν	κανόνι,	τὸ	αὐτο	φρονεῖν	
let us walk	rule	G3588	by the same	let us mind	
G4748	G2583		G846	G5426	

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 2:6 (Parallel theme): As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Revelation 3:3 (Parallel theme): Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Galatians 6:16 (Parallel theme): And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Romans 15:5 (Parallel theme): Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

Philippians 4:2 (Parallel theme): I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

Philippians 1:27 (Parallel theme): Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Philippians 2:2 (Parallel theme): Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Romans 12:16 (Parallel theme): Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.