



THE BOOK OF
PHILIPPIANS

Our Scripture reading for this morning can be found
in Philippians 3:12-17.

This is the reading of the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



CONTEXT



A VISION FOR PROGRESSIVE MATURITY



**Maturity is knowing that you'll never
arrive while always pursuing wholeness
in Jesus**



Fixed Mindset:

- Intelligence is static
- Desire to look smart
- Avoids challenges
- Gives up easily
- Effort is fruitless
- Ignores useful feedback
- Deterministic view of the world



Growth Mindset:

- Intelligence can be developed
- Desire to learn
- Embraces challenges
- Persists in the face of setbacks
- Effort is the path to mastery
- Learns from criticism
- Sense of agency in the world



We do not want to be beginners...but let us be convinced of the fact that we will never be anything but beginners, all our life!

Thomas Merton



Self-Awareness: The Meta-Skill of Maturity



Self knowledge is so important that, even if you were raised right up to the heavens, I should like you never to relax your cultivation of it; so long as we are on this earth, nothing matters more to us than humility.

Teresa of Avila



THE NECESSITY OF DELIBERATE EFFORT



Grace-Empowered Effort



People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer and obedience to Scripture, faith and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith; we cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.

DA Carson



Say not, why were the former days better than these?
For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

Ecclesiastes 7:10



Forgetting is not a passive loss of memory; no, it was an active, continuous discipline of the mind and heart. Although he did not actually forget the past, he emphatically chose to disregard it. He forcefully rejected it. He openly declared a nonobservance of his past.

G. Walter Hansen



THE DEVELOPMENTAL JOURNEY OF MATURITY



Edwin Friedman Cycle of Emotional Regression

1. Reactivity
2. Herding
3. Blame Displacement
4. Quick-Fix Mentality
5. Lack of Well-Differentiated Leadership



Let nobody look down on you because you are young,
but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct,
in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12



**A DELIBERATELY
DEVELOPMENTAL CHURCH
COMMUNITY**



1. Mature in our awareness of our immaturity
2. Mature in our grace-empowered effort
3. Mature in owning and leveraging our maturity for the good of others

