



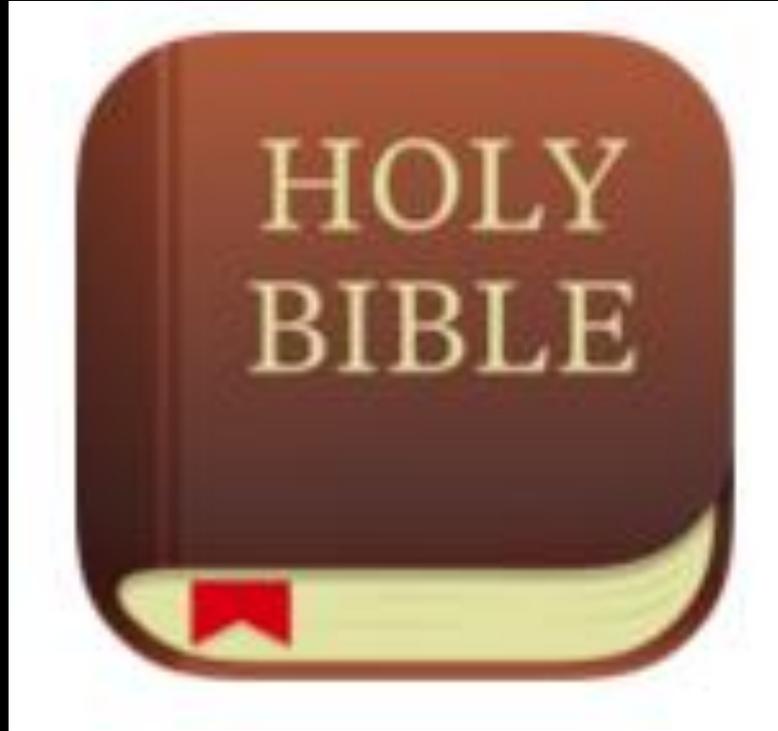
Face Up to

the Present

I press on to reach
the **END** OF THE RACE
that I may receive the
prize for which God, through
CHRIST JESUS, is calling us.

Sunday, January 29, 2017

**Click on the YouVersion Bible App
on your smart phone:**



Or type the following url into your browser:
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Philippians 1:3-11 (page 1161 in Sanctuary Bible)

3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Acts 16:24-40 (page 1096 in Sanctuary Bible)

16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." 18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

19 When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. 20 They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar 21 by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

Acts 16:24-40 (page 1096 in Sanctuary Bible)

22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. 27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

Acts 16:24-40 (page 1096 in Sanctuary Bible)

29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

35 When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men." 36 The jailer told Paul, "The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace."

Acts 16:24-40 (page 1096 in Sanctuary Bible)

37 But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.”

38 The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed.

39 They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. 40 After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

Face Up to the Present

4 vital steps: Moving from a place of indifference to God to a place of intimacy with the Father.

Face Up to the Present

- I. Take your spiritual temperature on a regular basis.

What 2 or 3 things could I do to put myself on a path towards making a difference in our world?

Face Up to the Present

II. Discover your purpose. (see Philippians 1:9-11)

What is your purpose in life?

*Paul's answer?... to **KNOW CHRIST** and to live out the things He has commanded.*

Face Up to the Present

III. Be willing to make adjustments.

Do I need to make some changes in my life?

Start with a *prayer of confession*...

Lay to rest your pride... *“die to self”*
(see John 12:24-26)

Break up your *hard heart*...

(see Jer. 4:3; Hos. 10:12)

Face Up to the Present

IV. Live in the moment.

It's easy to *live in the past* and it is easy to *dream away the future*. It is a real challenge, however, to *face the present*.

“I will live for Jesus today!”