

# Philippians





# Target Audience



Video Thought  
for the Day



# Target Audience



Video Thought  
for the Day





# Target Audience



Paul in  
Philippians 3?

Gentiles hearing  
the call of  
“Judaizers”

Judaizers!

Key Jewish  
Rituals



Gentile believers

Someone in covenant  
of Abraham



The background image shows the archaeological site of Philippi. In the foreground, there are stone walls and a dirt path. Several tall, white marble columns stand in the middle ground, some with papyrus-bundle capitals. The site is surrounded by a rocky hill with sparse vegetation under a clear blue sky.

Philippians

Paul On Target





Paul On Target?!

 **TARGET**



The challenge



The goal



The process





# The challenge







Phil. 3:1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

Phil. 3:1 Τὸ λοιπόν, ἀδελφοί μου, χαίρετε ἐν κυρίῳ. τὰ αὐτὰ γράφειν ὑμῖν ἐμοὶ μὲν οὐκ ὀκνηρόν, ὑμῖν δὲ ἀσφαλές.



Phil. 3:2-3 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

Phil. 3:2-3 Βλέπετε τοὺς κύνας, βλέπετε τοὺς κακοὺς ἐργάτας, βλέπετε τὴν κατατομήν. ἡμεῖς γάρ ἐσμεν ἡ περιτομή, οἱ πνεύματι θεοῦ λατρεύοντες καὶ καυχώμενοι ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ καὶ οὐκ ἐν σαρκὶ πεποιθότες



Phil. 3:4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

Phil. 3:4 καίπερ ἐγὼ ἔχων πεποίθησιν καὶ ἐν σαρκί. Εἴ τις δοκεῖ ἄλλος πεποιθέναι ἐν σαρκί, ἐγὼ μᾶλλον·

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Peter Thomas O'Brien

“Not only can Paul match the grounds that the Jew or Judaizer had for boasting in himself; he can even outstrip them... Paul’s grounds for boasting in his own pedigree and achievements are in fact greater than the credentials any Judaizer could produce.”



Karl Barth

Paul is saying: “If it came to that, I could *also* find a few things to say of my own cleanness, industry, circumcision. Thus-it is to sound like a challenge-if anyone else thinks he can rely on flesh, then I could do so much more.”





# THROWDOWN

with

**Bobby Flay**







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## Phil. 3:6

- circumcised on the eighth day,
- of the people of Israel,
- of the tribe of Benjamin,
- a Hebrew of Hebrews;

Paul's  
orthodox  
pedigree

## Phil. 3:6

- περιτομῇ ὀκταήμερος,
- ἐκ γένους Ἰσραήλ,
- φυλῆς Βενιαμίν,
- Ἑβραῖος ἐξ Ἑβραίων,

Paul spoke Hebrew, and  
his family kept tight ties to Jerusalem

Acts 26:14

Acts 21:40

Acts 22:2

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Paul's objective life, not inner thoughts

The strict Gal 1 Judaism

"Zeal" (ζῆλος) could be bad or good

Gal. 5:20

Here Paul means good!

Jn. 2:17



Phil. 3:7-8a But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

Phil. 3:7-8a [Ἄλλ'] ἅτινα ἦν μοι κέρδη, ταῦτα ἥγημαι διὰ τὸν Χριστὸν ζημίαν. ἀλλὰ μενοῦνγε καὶ ἡγοῦμαι πάντα ζημίαν εἶναι διὰ τὸ ὑπερέχον τῆς γνώσεως Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ τοῦ κυρίου μου,



Pay big time attention!  
(asyndeton)



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for the sake of Christ.

Indeed, I count everything  
as loss because of the  
surpassing worth of  
knowing Christ Jesus my  
Lord.

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πάντα ζημίαν εἶναι διὰ τὸ  
ὑπερέχον τῆς γνώσεως  
Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ τοῦ κυρίου  
μου,

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# BALANCE SHEETS

LOSSES

ζημία

PROFITS

κέρδος



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LOSSES

ζημία

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All of his “gains” are a loss



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The “perfect tense” emphasizes the present  
effects arising from something in the past



Paul was  
referring to the  
Damascus Rd  
experience



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# SERIOUSLY

Pay big time attention!  
(wierdness and repetition)



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Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

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A cinematic scene of a city in ruins. In the foreground, a street is covered in rubble and debris. Two cars are crushed under the weight of the destruction. To the left, a 'ONE WAY' sign points left, and a 'HOTEL' sign is visible on a building. In the background, several multi-story buildings are left as skeletal frames, with some windows still intact. A large crane or construction vehicle is partially visible on the right. The sky is a hazy, golden-brown color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A blue rounded rectangle with a yellow border is overlaid in the center, containing white text.

Do we see the  
massiveness of Paul's  
choice?





The challenge



The goal

Phil. 3:8b-9 For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith

Phil. 3:8b-9 δι' ὃν τὰ πάντα ἐζημιώθην, καὶ ἡγοῦμαι σκύβαλα, ἵνα Χριστὸν κερδήσω καὶ εὕρεθῶ ἐν αὐτῷ, μὴ ἔχων ἐμὴν δικαιοσύνην τὴν ἐκ νόμου ἀλλὰ τὴν διὰ πίστεως Χριστοῦ, τὴν ἐκ θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην ἐπὶ τῇ πίστει,

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- I may gain Christ
- and be found in him,
- not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law,
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## Phil. 3:8b-9

- Χριστὸν κερδήσω
- καὶ εὑρεθῶ ἐν αὐτῷ,
- μὴ ἔχων ἐμὴν δικαιοσύνην τὴν ἐκ νόμου
- ἀλλὰ τὴν διὰ πίστεως Χριστοῦ, τὴν ἐκ θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην ἐπὶ τῇ πίστει,

## Phil. 3:10-11

- That I may **know** him
- and the power of his resurrection,
- and may **share** his sufferings,
- becoming like him in his

## Phil. 3:10-11

- τοῦ **γινῶναι** αὐτόν
- καὶ τὴν δύναμιν τῆς ἀναστάσεως αὐτοῦ
- καὶ [τὴν] **κοινωνίαν** [τῶν] παθημάτων αὐτοῦ,

- In 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

dead.

νεκρῶν.





The challenge



The goal



The process

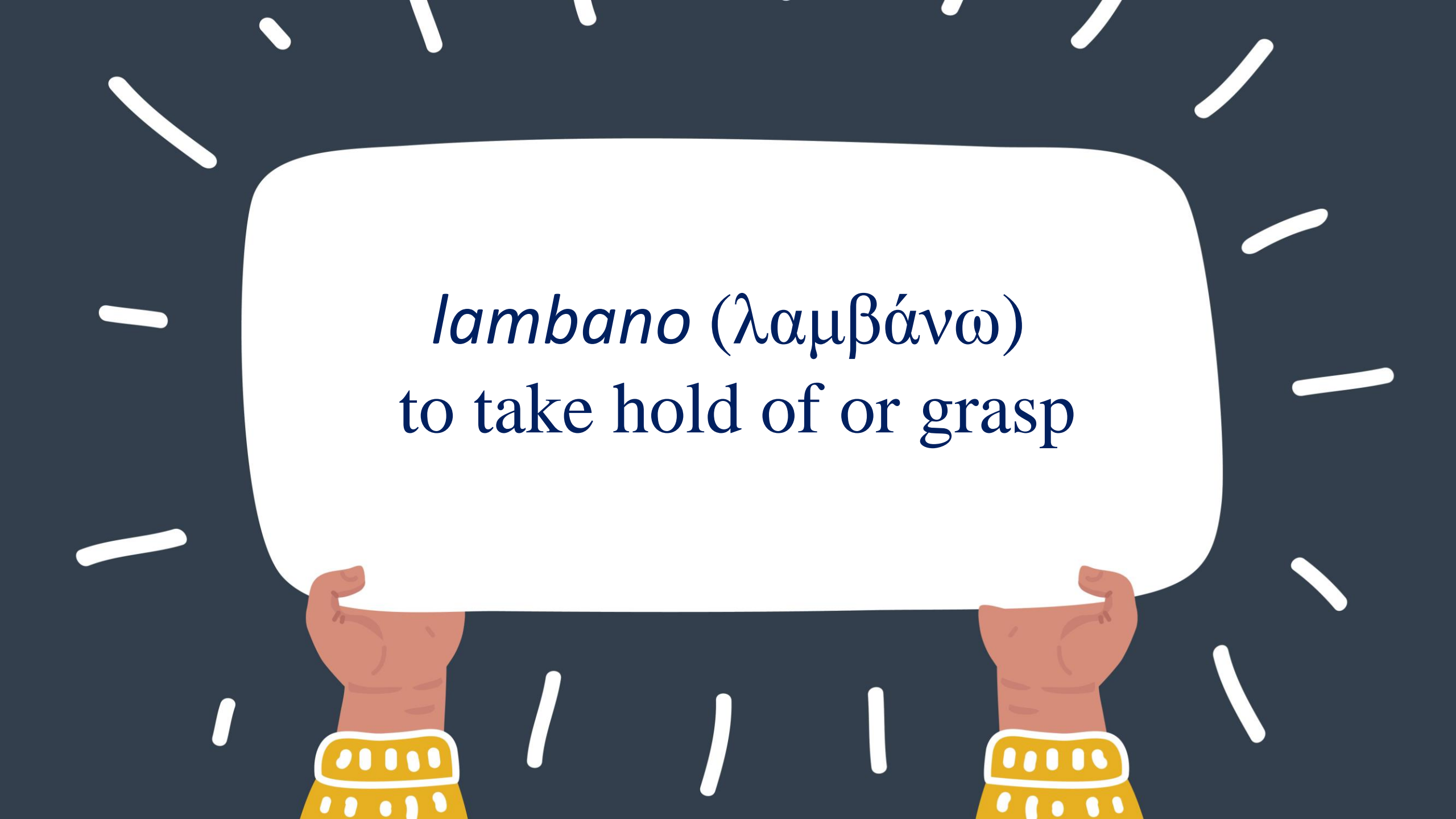
Phil. 3:12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Phil. 3:12 Οὐχ ὅτι ἤδη ἔλαβον ἢ ἤδη τετελείωμαι, διώκω δὲ εἰ καὶ καταλάβω, ἐφ' ᾧ καὶ κατελήμφθην ὑπὸ Χριστοῦ [Ἰησοῦ].

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An illustration featuring two hands at the bottom, holding up a large white rectangular sign. The hands are rendered in a simple, cartoonish style with orange skin and are wearing yellow wristbands with white dots. The background is a dark blue-grey color, decorated with numerous white, short, diagonal lines that resemble confetti or falling rain. The sign itself is white with rounded corners and contains the word 'lambano' in a dark blue, italicized serif font, followed by the Greek word '(λαμβάνω)' in the same font. Below this, the phrase 'to take hold of or grasp' is written in a dark blue, regular serif font.

*lambano* (λαμβάνω)  
to take hold of or grasp

A man in a white dress shirt and a blue tie is shown from the chest up. He is reaching out with his right hand, palm facing forward, fingers slightly spread. A bright light source is positioned behind his hand, creating a strong lens flare effect that illuminates the scene. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

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*1 Cor. 13 becomes  
important here...*



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*diōkō* (διώκω) - to chase after



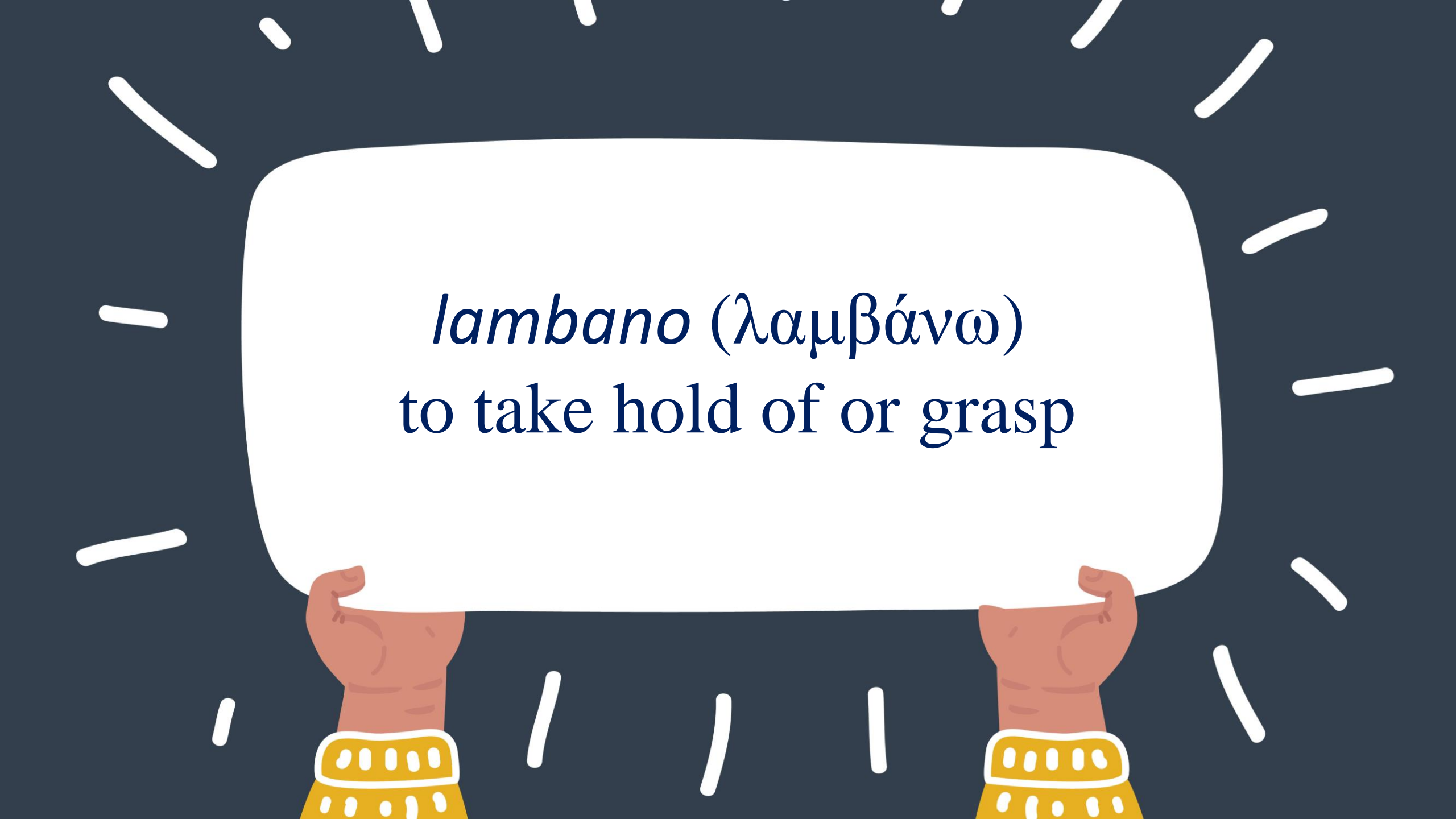
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An illustration featuring two hands at the bottom, holding up a large white rectangular sign. The hands are rendered in a simple, cartoonish style with orange skin and are wearing yellow wristbands with white dots. The background is a dark blue-grey color, decorated with numerous white, short, diagonal lines that resemble confetti or falling rain. The sign itself is white with rounded corners and contains the text 'lambano (λαμβάνω)' in a dark blue, italicized serif font, followed by 'to take hold of or grasp' in a dark blue, regular serif font.

*lambano* (λαμβάνω)  
to take hold of or grasp

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gabbbed

grab it

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A man in a white dress shirt and a blue tie is shown from the chest up. He is reaching out with his right hand, palm facing forward, towards the viewer. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. The text is overlaid in the top right corner.

*lambano* (λαμβάνω)

to take hold of  
or grasp

*diōkō* (διώκω) - to chase after





What are you chasing after?















Phil. 3:13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

Phil. 3:13 ἀδελφοί, ἐγὼ ἐμαυτὸν οὐ λογίζομαι κατειληφέναι· ἐν δέ, τὰ μὲν ὀπίσω ἐπιλανθανόμενος τοῖς δὲ ἔμπροσθεν ἐπεκτεινόμενος,

Phil. 3:14 I press on  
toward the goal for the  
prize of the upward call of  
God in Christ Jesus.

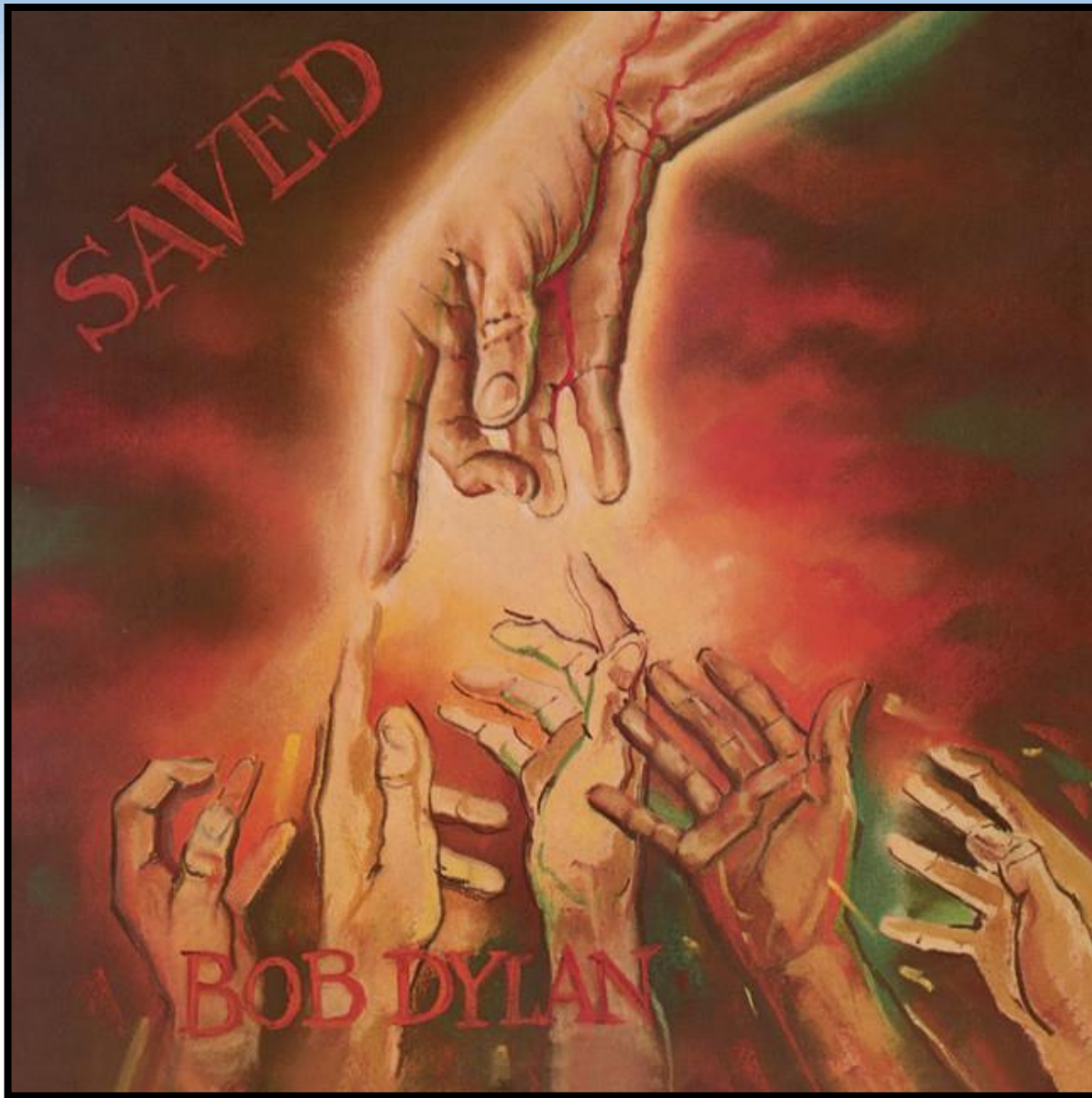
Phil. 3:14 κατὰ σκοπὸν  
διώκω εἰς τὸ βραβεῖον τῆς  
ἄνω κλήσεως τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν  
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.



# What are you chasing after?

The upward  
call of God!





With the pressing on  
of my Lord



Bob Dylan – *Pressing On*

## Points to Ponder:



Paul ... Had it all,  
and saw it as garbage

Where am I  
finding value?

Points to Ponder:



Profits and Losses

I want to re-examine  
my priorities



## Points to Ponder:



I haven't arrived yet... but  
I know what I'm chasing!

But I'm pressing on  
to the higher calling  
if my Lord!



The image shows the archaeological site of Philippi, featuring several tall, weathered stone columns standing amidst ruins. In the background, a steep, rocky hill rises under a clear blue sky. The foreground is filled with stone walls and debris, suggesting an ancient urban environment.

# Philippians

## Paul On Target



Time for church!

