

**Study on the
Book of Philippians
3:1-3;**

WARNINGS AGAINST JUDAISM AND ANTINOMIANISM (3:1-21;)

AGAINST JUDAISM (3:1-11;)

- 1. Rejoice in the Lord, beware of those who place confidence in the flesh. (3:1-3;)**
- 2. If anyone had reason to boast in the flesh, it would have been Paul. (3:4-6;)**
- 3. But he gave it all up, that he might know Christ and the power of His resurrection. (3:7-11;)**

**WARNINGS AGAINST
JUDAISM AND ANTINOMIANISM (3:1-21;)
AGAINST (LAW) ANTINOMIANISM (3:12-21;)**

**1. Paul's attitude of pressing on to perfection.
(3:12-14;)**

**2. An exhortation for them to have the same mind.
(3:15-17;)**

**3. A warning against those who
serve their own desires. (3:18-19;)**

**4. A reminder of our true citizenship,
and the hope it entails. (3:20-21;)**

AGAINST JUDAISM (3:1-11;)

1. “Whatever happens, dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord give you joy. I never get tired of telling you this. I am doing this for your own good.”

2. “Watch out for those dogs, those wicked men and their evil deeds, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved.”

3. “For we who worship God in the Spirit are the only ones who are truly circumcised. We put no confidence in human effort. Instead, we boast about what Christ Jesus has done for us.”

4. “Yet I could have confidence in myself if anyone could. If others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!”

AGAINST JUDAISM (3:1-11;)

5. “For I was circumcised when I was eight days old, having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish family that is a branch of the tribe of Benjamin.

So I am a real Jew if there ever was one!

What's more, I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.”

6. “And zealous? Yes, in fact, I harshly persecuted the church. And I obeyed the Jewish law so carefully that I was never accused of any fault.”

7. “I once thought all these things were so very important, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.”

AGAINST JUDAISM (3:1-11;)

8. “Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ”

9. “and become one with him. I no longer count on my own goodness or my ability to obey God's law, but I trust Christ to save me. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.”

10. “As a result, I can really know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I can learn what it means to suffer with him, sharing in his death,”

11. “so that, somehow, I can experience the resurrection from the dead!”

Phil 3:1; “Whatever happens, dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord give you joy. I never get tired of telling you this. I am doing this for your own good.”

Chapter 3 helps us to see that **we must Continue to “press” (try) in life** no matter the trials or sufferings we face. Paul pressed on and so must we. **Heaven is at stake!**

Paul has told the Philippians of **his prayers to God on their behalf**. Paul is thankful for their **sharing with him in spreading the gospel message of salvation**, for their sharing in sympathy for his bonds, for their defence and confirmation of truth. (Phil 1:1-7;)

Furthermore, **Paul prays** that the Philippians would **love** others and **grow spiritually** more and more.

Phil 3:1; “Whatever happens, dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord give you joy. I never get tired of telling you this. I am doing this for your own good.”

Paul explains to the Philippians that **his Roman bonds have really worked out well** in that others have been motivated to preach the gospel. (Phil 1:12-19;)

Paul tells the Philippians that he is ready to die in bonds; however, to remain alive would be more profitable to them. (Phil 1:20-25;)

Paul reminds the Philippians to remain united in truth and faithful even in the face of intense trials and persecutions (Phil. 1:26-30).

To endure persecutions the Philippians must have the mind of Christ. (Phil 2:1-5;)

Phil 3:1; “Whatever happens, dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord give you joy. I never get tired of telling you this. I am doing this for your own good.”

Jesus and Paul **serve as examples** to the Philippians as to how they can handle their hour of suffering.
(Phil 2:6-18;)

Paul **comforts** the Philippians with the news of the coming of both Timothy and Epaphroditus
(Phil 2:19-30;).

Paul now states, “Finally, my brethren, ...”

Paul encourages the Philippians to **“rejoice in the Lord.”**

Even though they suffer at the hands of wicked men who love not the truth.

A new subject

Paul was half-way through his letter.



Phil 3:1; “Whatever happens, dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord give you joy. I never get tired of telling you this. I am doing this for your own good.”

Real joy depends upon having
the proper understanding of the gospel of grace.

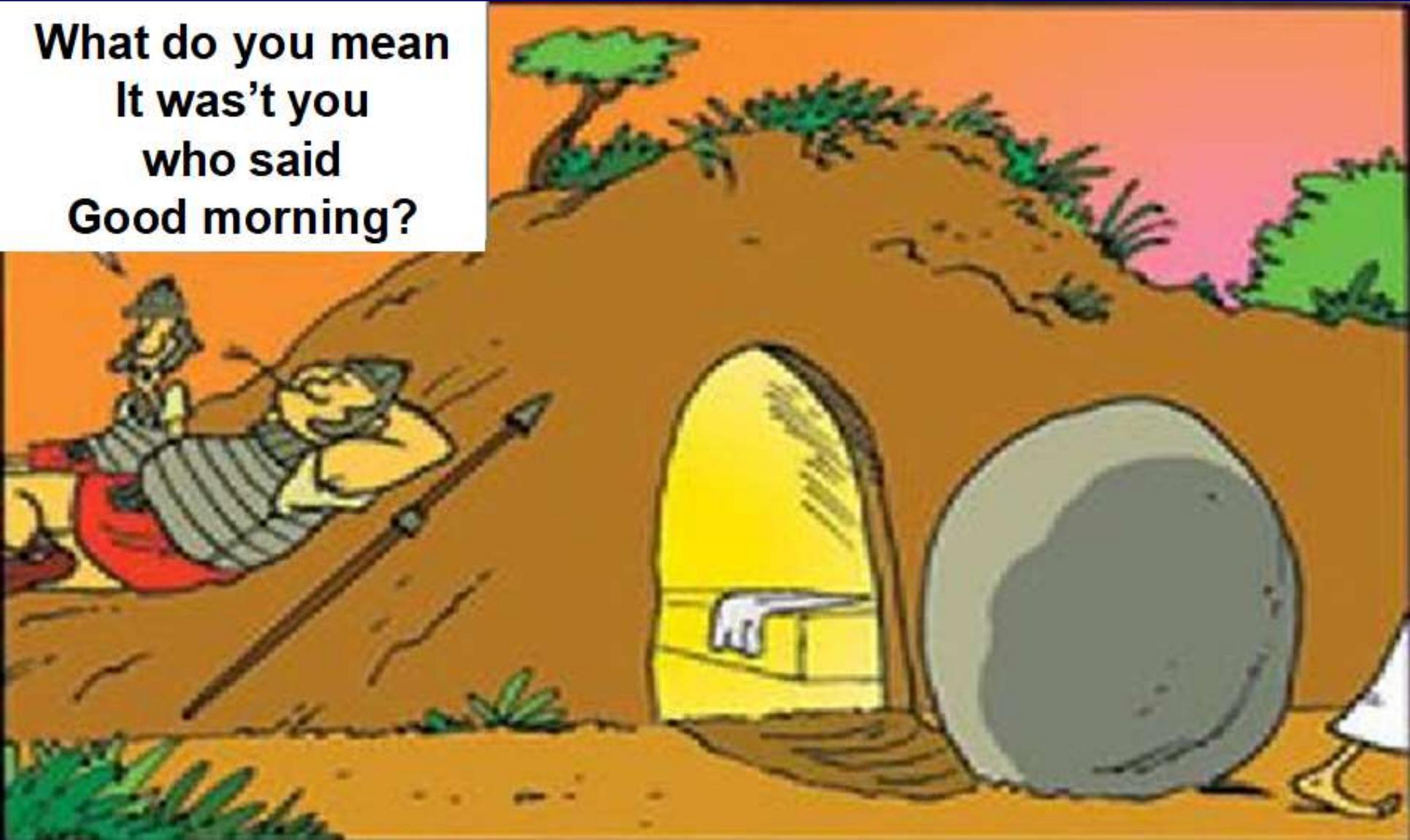
The Galatian church **lost its joy. Galatians 4:15-16;**

“**Where is that joyful spirit** we felt together then?
In those days, I know you would gladly have taken
out your own eyes and given them to me if it had
been possible. **Have I now become your enemy
because I am telling you the truth?”**

Phil 3:1; "Whatever happens, dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord give you joy. I never get tired of telling you this. I am doing this for your own good."

Christ is RISEN may He give you JOY

What do you mean
It wasn't you
who said
Good morning?



Phil 3:1; “Whatever happens, dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord give you joy. I never get tired of telling you this. I am doing this for your own good.”

Paul’s message to the Philippians is that **suffering is “granted in behalf of Christ.”** (Phil 1:29;)

If they have **“the mind of Christ”** (Phil 2:5;) **they can make it through the trial.**

Having **Christ as their example** of how to handle suffering they can certainly **“rejoice in the Lord,”** (as all went well for Christ **so it will for them eternally.**)

It seems that the **“same things”** written by Paul are **the admonitions /warnings** of this letter. Apparently those who were **causing the suffering** of Phil 1:29; were **threatening the unity** of the saints at Philippi. (Phil 1:27; 2:2;)

Phil 3:2; "Watch out for those wicked men - dangerous dogs, I call them who say you must be circumcised to be saved."

RULES

1. YOU CAN....

2. YOU CAN'T...

3. YOU CAN....

4. YOU CAN'T

Phil 3:2; “Watch out for those wicked men - dangerous dogs,
I call them who say you must be circumcised to be saved.”

Paul warns the church against legalists. Balance is Key!

**Legalism
(All Law)**

**Libertinism
(No Law)**

**Godly
Balance
(Some Law)**



Balance in the Christian Life

| Legalism | <i>A Godly Balance</i> | Libertinism |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Phil. 3:1-3 | Phil. 3:4-16 | Phil. 3:17-20 |
| Legal = Law Only | Standards and Liberty | Liberty = No Law |
| Excessive Rules | Only Biblical Rules | License for Everything |
| Actions are Everything | Actions are Something | Actions are Unimportant |
| Highly Structured | Some Structure | No Structure |
| Pharisee-like | Christ-like | Glutton-like |
| “god” is their Traditions | God is Christ | “god” is their Stomach |
| Starves the Flesh | Controls the Flesh | Indulges the Flesh |
| Claim of Perfectionism | In Process (3:12-13) | Practice of Fatalism |
| Think they've Arrived | Know they Haven't | Don't Care if they Do |
| Confidence in Flesh (3:3) | Confidence in Christ (3:7) | Confidence in Shame (3:19c) |
| Righteousness from the Law (3:9a) | Righteousness by Faith (3:9b) | Righteousness Not Pursued (3:19d) |
| No Films | Wholesome Films | All Films |
| No TV | Wholesome TV | All TV |
| No Music | Wholesome Music | All Music |
| No Wine for Merit | No Wine/Moderation | Drunkenness |
| Unclean Foods | Moderation | Gluttony |
| “Christian Sabbath” | Rest | Frivolity |
| Celibacy Required | Celibacy for Ministry | Sexual Immorality ¹⁶ |
| Salvation cannot be Lost | Eternal Security | Salvation can't be Gained |

Phil 3:1; “Whatever happens, dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord give you joy. I never get tired of telling you this. I am doing this for your own good.”

Christ-likeness Frees Us From Legalism



Phil 3:2; “Watch out for those wicked men - dangerous dogs,
I call them who say you must be circumcised to be saved.”

Paul continues to **expose** these wicked men
for the sake of the Philippians unity in truth.

Such warnings were neither **“irksome,”**
“troublesome” to Paul or the Philippians.

Paul being **inspired** was in a unique position
to warn of dangers to congregational unity.

**Many brethren today want
to police the congregation
out of their own sense of self righteousness.**

They usually **preface their warnings** by saying
I am only **telling you** for your own good.

Yet they **often** make their statements
without access to all the facts.

Phil 3:2; “Watch out for those wicked men - dangerous dogs, I call them who say you must be circumcised to be saved.”

Don't let people steal your joy. Phil 3:2;

A battle for the souls of men was taking place on the spiritual landscape of Paul's days as there is now. (2 Cor 11:3-4, 13-14;)

“But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent. 4. You seem to believe whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach about a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed.”

13 “These people are false apostles. They have fooled you by disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14. But I am not surprised! Even Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light.”

Phil 3:2; “Watch out for those wicked men - dangerous dogs, I call them who say you must be circumcised to be saved.”

Here are **three phrases** that depict either **three classes of individuals** or **one class of false teachers** (such as the **Judaizers**) that have the ability to **disrupt the unity and faith** of the Philippian congregation and any congregation for that matter.

First, Paul states, “Beware of the dogs.”



“Beware of the dogs.”



Phil 3:2; “Watch out for those wicked men - dangerous dogs,
I call them who say you must be circumcised to be saved.”

“Beware of the dogs”

Acts 20:29; “For **I know** this,
that after my departure

savage wolves will come in among you,
not sparing the flock.”



Phil 3:2; “Watch out for those wicked men - dangerous dogs,
I call them who say you must be circumcised to be saved.”

Some place signs on their fence that read,
“**Beware of dog.**” The sign is to **warn all** would
be thieves and trespassers that **their unlawful
presence** will not be tolerated by the watching dog.

Paul tells the faithful Philippians that these dogs
are not guarding anything important but are rather
a vicious threat to the Philippians faith.

If the Philippians wander into the landscape
of these men’s false teaching
they may be **torn to shreds. (spiritually killed.)**

Phil 3:2; “Watch out for those wicked men - dangerous dogs, I call them who say you must be circumcised to be saved.”

Isaiah calls upon **all the world** to come “**feast upon Israel**” because they were likened to **dumb, lazy, and greedy dogs who have no love of truth.**

Isa 56:10-11;

Paul, here, uses the term “**dogs**” to represent **those who do not teach or have a love for truth.**

Phil 3:2; “Watch out for those wicked men - dangerous dogs, I call them who say you must be circumcised to be saved.”

Secondly, Paul warns the Philippians of “the evil workers.” Teachers of false doctrines are always “hard workers.”

It is often said that false teachers outwork the faithful because their agenda is to gain a following for themselves. (Phil. 2:3;)

Numbers will comfort the erring in their false ways so the more of a following they have the more comfortable they feel in their error.

Phil 3:2; “Watch out for those wicked men - dangerous dogs, I call them who say you must be circumcised to be saved.”

New American Standard Philippians 3:2;
“Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers,
beware of the false circumcision;”

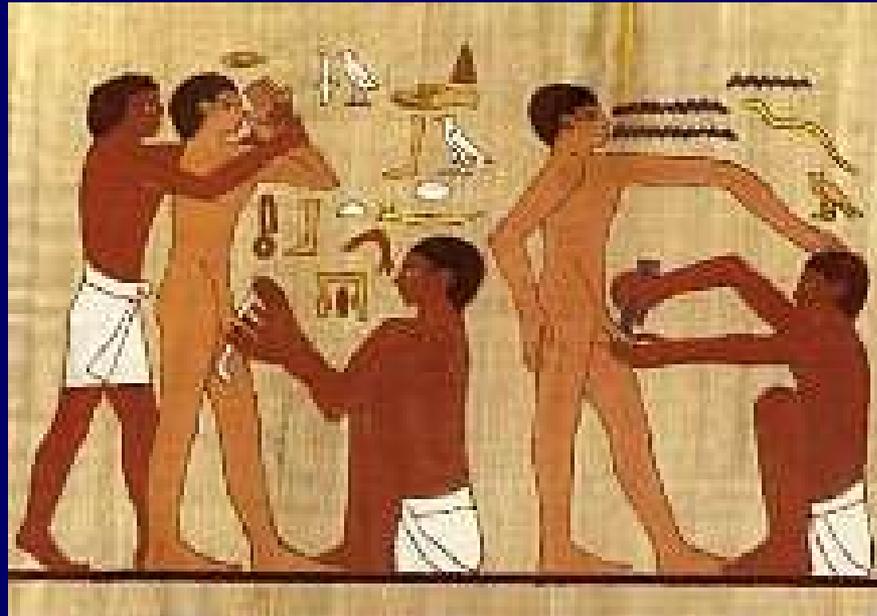
Thirdly, Paul tells the Philippians to “**beware of the concision.**” The “**concision**” (**katatome**) = “**abscission** (the act of cutting off,) **concision** (a cutting apart or off), as opp. to true circumcision.”

Moulton defines the word as a “**mutilation.**” (221)

This appears to be a strong denunciation of the **Christian Jews** who continued to teach that **circumcision** was **necessary for salvation**, Even though **the apostles** uniformly **taught against it.**
(cf. Acts 15:1, 5; Gal 2:3-4; 5:7-12;)

Beware of the

“mutilators of the flesh” (NIV) or
the **“false circumcision”** (NAU)



**“those mutilators who say you
must be circumcised to be saved.”**
(NLT)

Phil 3:2; “Watch out for those wicked men - dangerous dogs,
I call them who say you must be circumcised to be saved.”

The antecedent to **“we”** is the **faithful Christians.**
Faithful Christians **“are the circumcision.”**

Why would Paul state that **faithful Christians are the circumcision** when **“Circumcision Is nothing, and un-circumcision is nothing; but the keeping of the commandments of God”?**
(cf. I Cor 7:19;)

Paul is clearly **using the idea of circumcision** to illustrate **a cutting away or off of sin** and accepting truth in one’s life. (cf. Rom 2:28-29;)

Phil 3:3; “for we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, and glory in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

**Three of the identifying marks
of the true Christians are given**

The true Christian **“worships by the Spirit of God.”**
Jesus had said, “But the hour comes, and now is,
when the **true worshippers**
shall worship the Father in spirit and truth:”
(John 4:23;)

Those who seek to serve Yahweh God by His
authority alone are marked as true worshippers
(i.e., those who have circumcised the heart
rather than the literal flesh.)

The words **“Spirit of God”** is a term
Synonymous with the Holy Spirit and used
in **metonymy** with the truths of the Gospel.

Phil 3:3; “for we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, and glory in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

Let us remember that what is said of one part of the Godhead is to be said of all (cf. Col 2:9;) The point is that if **Christ's name** is used in metonymy of **truth** then so is **the Holy Spirit**. (cf. Col. 2:25-27; 3:8;)

The true Christian “**glories in Christ Jesus.**”
The faithful child of God will not be “**self centred.**”
(John. 12:43; Phil 2:3;) preaching fleshly doctrines of men. (Matt 15:1-9; 2 Cor 2:17;)

Rather **he will look to the authority of Jesus Christ and His word** and thereby give and **bring Him glory** in their lives rather than seeking it for their self.
(John 15:7-10; Gal 5:22-24;)

Phil 3:3; “for we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, and glory in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

The true Christian “has **no confidence in the flesh.**”

The word “**confidence**” (peitho) =
“to prevail upon, win over, persuade,
to believe or trust in a person or thing.”

The “**flesh**” is often times examined in light of being **the seat of sin.** (cf. Rom 7:25;) The **fleshly** side of man looks for **gratification of self desires.**
(Rom 13:14;)

If my desire is to **gratify my lust,** rather than having **a desire to please God,** I am **guided** by my **flesh** rather than by **the Holy Spirit.**

Phil 3:3; “for we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, and glory in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, upon the sons of disobedience,

7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

Phil 3:3; “for we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, and glory in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

**8 But now you yourselves
are to put off all these:**

**anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy,
filthy language out of your mouth.**

**9 Do not lie to one another, since you
have put off the old man with his deeds,**

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

“Put to death.” “Mortify.” i.e. “utterly slay.”

The idea means more than just suppress or control.
(Gal 5:24;)

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed their own human nature to crosses, along with feelings and selfish desires.”

“Your Members.” The body, and its members serve as the medium through which sin works.
(Rom 6:12-13,19;)

“Put to death every part of yourself which is against God and keeps you from fulfilling His will.”
(William Barclay 174.)

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

Fornication – πορνεία – porneia. Thayer Definition:

1) illicit sexual intercourse.

1a) adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.

1b) sexual intercourse with close relatives; Lev. 18

Uncleanness – ἀκαθαρσία – Akatharsia. Thayer:-

1a) physical

1b) in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living.

**1b1) of impure motives. Rom 1:24; 6:19;
2 Cor 12:21; Gal 5:19; Eph4:19; 5:3; 1 Thes 4:7;**

**“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;
Passion - inordinate affection AV– πάθος - pathos**

Thayer Definition:

2) A feeling which the mind suffers.

2c) used by the Greeks in either a good or bad sense

2d) in the NT in a bad sense,

depraved passion, vile passions, lust.

Romans 1:26; “vile passion” 1 Thes 4:5; “Passion of lust”

Evil Desire. (AV - evil concupiscence)

κακός ἐπιθυμία – Kakos epithumia.

2) of a mode of thinking, feeling, acting –

2a) base, wrong, wicked

Thayer Definition for **epithumia:**

1) desire, craving, longing,

desire for what is forbidden, lust.

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

“Lust, (passion), and evil desire occur together in 1 Thess 4:5; They also appear in a passage closely resembling this text. Gal 5:24;

The same vice may be viewed
as a **LUST** from its **passive side**
and an **“evil desire”** from its **active side.**

Here, if anything,
evil desire is broader than lust.

While lust includes all ungovernable affections,
evil desire reaches to all evil longings.

(Lightfoot; Colossians and Philemon; pg. 108)

**“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;
Covetousness – πλεονεξία – pleonexia. Thayer:-**

**1) greedy desire to have more,
covetousness, avarice**

Vines Definition:

**lit., "a desire to have more" (pleōn, "more," echō,
"to have"), always in a bad sense, is used
in a general way in Mark 7:22;**

**(b) of sensuality, Eph. 4:19, "greediness;" Col. 3:5;
(where it is called "idolatry");**

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

Colossians 3:6-7; “Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.”

God’s **wrath would come upon those **who practiced** “fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness.”
(1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:19-21; Rev 21:8;)**

These individuals are classified as “sons of disobedience**” – (Eph 2:2-3; 2 Pet 2:14;)**

**The Colossians in the past had practiced some of these things – but not any longer.”
(Eph 2:2; Tit 3:3; 1 Pet 4:3-4;)**

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

Colossians 3:8-9; “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.”

To remove from ourselves as we would remove a garment. – (Eph 4:22; Heb 12:1; 1 Pet 2:1;)

**“All these which follow, as being also inconsistent with the Christian calling (living).”
(Barnes' Notes on the New Testament)**

**“The five sins enumerated in the present list are sins of attitude and speech.”
(Walton Weaver, Philipppians and Colossians; pg. 504)**

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

Anger - ὀργή - orgē Anger in and of itself is NOT a sin – (“Be angry and sin not.” – Eph 4:26; - “When He had looked round about on them with anger.”

Mark 3:5; see also John 2:13-17;)

The anger that must be put off is the **personal resentfulness** and abiding condition of the mind that **harbours vengeful thoughts.** (Rom 12:19;)

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

Wrath – θυμός – thumos Thayer Definition:

1) passion, angry, heat, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again.

2) glow, ardour, the wine of passion, inflaming wine (which either drives the drinker mad or kills him with its strength)

The difference between them is this.

Thumos, (wrath), is a blaze of sudden anger, which is quickly ignited and just as quickly dies.

The Greeks likened it to a fire in straw . . .

Orge (anger) is anger which has become ingrained; it is long lasting, slow burning anger which refuses to be pacified and nurses its wrath to keep it warm.”

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

Malice – κακία – kakia Thayer Definition:

1) malignity, malice, ill-will, desire to injure

2) wickedness, depravity

2a) wickedness that is not ashamed to break laws

3) evil, trouble.

Vine's Definition:

“badness in quality“ “the vicious character generally.” (Lightfoot)

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

Blasphemy – βλασφημία - blasphēmia

Thayer Definition:

- 1) slander, detraction, speech injurious, to another’s good name.**
- 2) impious and reproachful speech injurious to divine majesty.**

Barnes - The word here seems to mean all injurious and calumnious (false and malicious) speaking – whether against God or man.

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

Filthy Language – αἰσχρολογία - aischrologia

Thayer Definition:

1) foul speaking, low and obscene speech

Word Pictures in the New Testament :

**“an old word for low and obscene speech
which occurs here only in the N.T.**

**The word was used for both abusive and filthy talk
and Lightfoot combines both ideas
as often happens.” (“foul mouthed abuse.”)**

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

Colossians 3:9;

“Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.”

Do Not Lie ψεύδομαι – pseudomai

Thayer Definition:

- 1) to lie, to speak deliberate falsehoods.**
- 2) to deceive one by a lie, to lie to.**

**Ephesians 4:25; “Therefore, putting away lying,
“Let each one of you speak truth with his
neighbour” for we are members of one another.**

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

“When people become Christians – there ought to be a complete change in their personalities.”

Barclay

Romans 6:6;

“knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”

Ephesians 4:22-23; “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,”

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

Fornication (v. 5)

Uncleanness (v. 5)

Passion (v. 5)

Evil Desire (v. 5)

Covetousness - Idolatry (v. 5)

Anger (v. 8)

Wrath (v. 8)

Malice (v. 8)

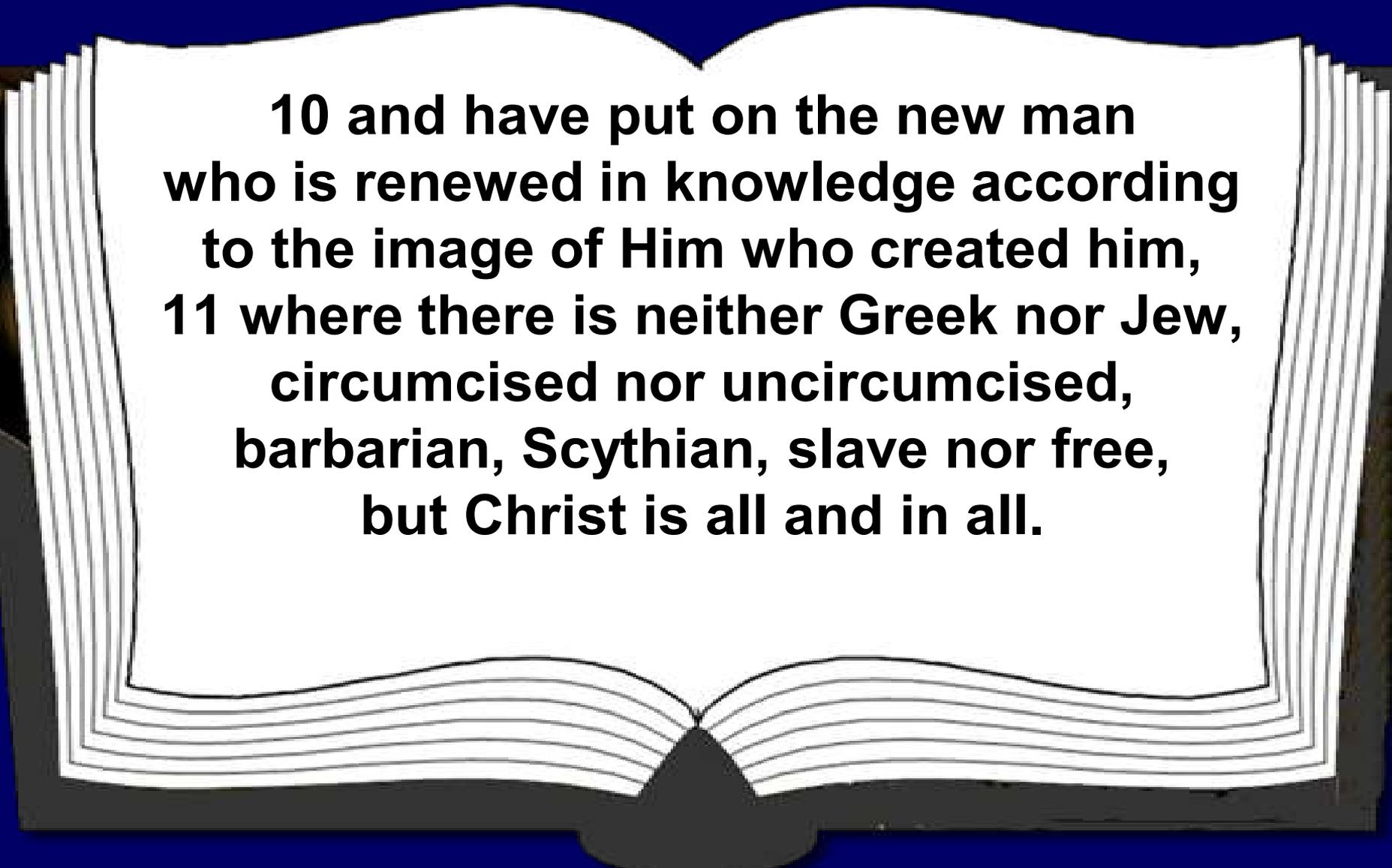
Blasphemy (v. 8)

Filthy Language (v. 8)

Lying (v. 9)

Phil 3:3; “for we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, and glory in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

“Put Off The Old Man With His Deeds” Col 3:5-11;

An illustration of an open book with white pages and a dark cover. The text is centered on the pages in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The book is shown from a slightly elevated perspective, with the pages curving upwards at the edges.

**10 and have put on the new man
who is renewed in knowledge according
to the image of Him who created him,
11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew,
circumcised nor uncircumcised,
barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free,
but Christ is all and in all.**

“Put On The New Man” Col 1:10;

Eph 4:20-24; “But these are not the lessons which you have learned from Christ; if you have heard him and been instructed in him according as the truth is in Jesus;”

“You were taught to **put away** your **former way of life**, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes.”

“and to **put on the new man** which was created according to the likeness of God in righteousness and true holiness.”

“Put On The New Man” Col 1:10;



Get priorities
in order
Put God First!

Yes, but help
spiritually
first / Love

Study Bible -
learn more
of God's will

Get out of sin
Repent
Obey Christ

get
organized

help
others

learn
something
new

get out
of
debt

More Faithful
in attendance
godly association

Practice
what
is right

exercise

10 TOP RESOLUTIONS

more
family
time

More joy in
serving Christ

quit
smoking

lose
weight

quit
drinking

enjoy
life
more

Take better
care of
my "temple"

Put away
hindrances

Be filled with
the Spirit

“Putting On The New Man” Col 1:10;

Requires that we transform our thinking to harmonize with God’s will.

Prov 23:7; **Rom 12:1-2**; Col 3:1-3;



“And so, dear brothers and sisters,
I plead with you to **give your bodies to God.**

Let them **be a living and holy sacrifice,**
the kind he will accept.

When you think of what He has done for you,
is this too much to ask?”

“**Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world,** but **let God transform you** into a new person **by changing the way you think.** Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.

“Putting On The New Man” Col 1:10;

Requires that we feed upon God’s word

Psalm 1:1-2; 1 Pet 2:2; 2 Tim 2:15

“Now that you realize how kind the Lord has been to you, put away all evil, deception, envy, and fraud. Long to grow up into the fullness of your salvation; cry for this as a baby cries for his milk.”

**“Work hard so God can say to you, “Well done.”
Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work.
Know what his Word says and means.”**

“Putting On The New Man” Col 1:10;

Requires that **we understand & follow God’s word:-**

Mat 7:21; 13:23; James 1:21-25;

“Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as ‘Lord,’ but they still won’t enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven.”

“So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the message God has planted in your hearts, for it is strong enough to save your souls.

“And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. If you don’t obey, you are only fooling yourself. For if you just listen and don’t obey, it is like looking at your face in a mirror but doing nothing to improve your appearance.”

“Put Off The Old Man” Eph 4:17-24;

State of mind / attitude

Futile in their Minds – 17
Understanding Darkened – 18
Alienated from Life – 18
Ignorant & Blind – 18
Past Feeling – 19
Serves Lewdness – 19
Works uncleanness - 19
With Greediness – 19
Grows Corrupt Because of
Deceitful Lust – 22

Actions / behaviour

25 Lying,
26 Vengeful & harboured
anger,
27 Giving the devil a place.
28 Stealing
29 Corrupt words
30 Grieves the Holy Spirit
31 Bitterness, wrath, anger,
clamour, evil speaking
and malice.

“Putting On The New Man” Col 1:10;

“But that isn't what you were taught when you learned about Christ.

Since you have heard all about him and have learned the truth that is in Jesus, throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception.

Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes.

You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness, righteous, holy, and true.

Eph 4:20-24;

“Putting On The New Man” Col 1:10;

**“So put away all falsehood and
tell your neighbour the truth**

because we belong to each other.

don't sin by letting anger gain control over you.

**Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry,
for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil.**

If you are a thief, stop stealing.

**Begin using your hands for honest work,
and then give generously to others in need.”**

Eph 4:25-28;

“Putting On The New Man” Col 1:10;

“Don't use foul or abusive language.

**Let everything you say be good and helpful,
so that your words will be an encouragement
to those who hear them.**

**And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by
the way you live. Remember, He is the one who
has identified you as His own, guaranteeing
that you will be saved on the day of redemption.**

**Get rid of all bitterness, rage,
anger, harsh words, and slander,
as well as all types of malicious behaviour.
Instead, be kind to each other, tender hearted,
forgiving one another,
just as God through Christ has forgiven you.** ⁶⁰

Eph 4:25-28;

“Putting On The New Man” Col 3:1-9;

State of mind / attitude

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honour and power.

Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth.

For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory.”

Behaviour of earthly mind

Fornication (v. 5)
Uncleanness (v. 5)
Passion (v. 5)
Evil Desire (v. 5)
Covetousness,
- Idolatry (v. 5)
Anger (v. 8)
Wrath (v. 8)
Malice (v. 8)
Blasphemy (v. 8)
Filthy Language (v. 8)
Lying (v. 9)

“Putting On The New Man” Col 3:10-17;

State of mind / attitude

10. “In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.

11. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us.”

Behaviour of Godly mind

12 Mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, . . .

14 most importantly - love,

15 let the peace of God rule in your hearts, . . . be thankful.

16 worship, admonish one another . . .

17 Submitting to Christ's authority in everything

Phil 3:3; “for we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, and glory in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

Like Paul, **give your flesh**
a **vote of no confidence.**



The flesh!

Drunkenness.

Immorality.

Selfishness.

Greed.

Idolatry.

Lies.

Spiritual!

Shares my faith.

Meets with

fellow Christians.

Unselfish

Studies the Bible

Does Good.

You CAN'T please God on your own!

Phil 3:3; “for we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God, and glory in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

Paul said, “For they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit” (Rom 8:5;)

Those whose desire is the flesh can in no way please God.
(Rom 8:6-9;)

Flesh and Spirit are thereby often analyzed in the Word of God as being **opposed** to one another.
(cf. 2 Cor 1:12; Gal 5:16;)

Jude said of false teachers, “Yet in like manner these also in their dreaming defile the flesh, and set at nought dominion, and rail at dignities.” (1:8;)

The overall message is that the Christian is to be governed by truth **as opposed to having confidence (being persuaded or won over by) fleshly wisdom.**

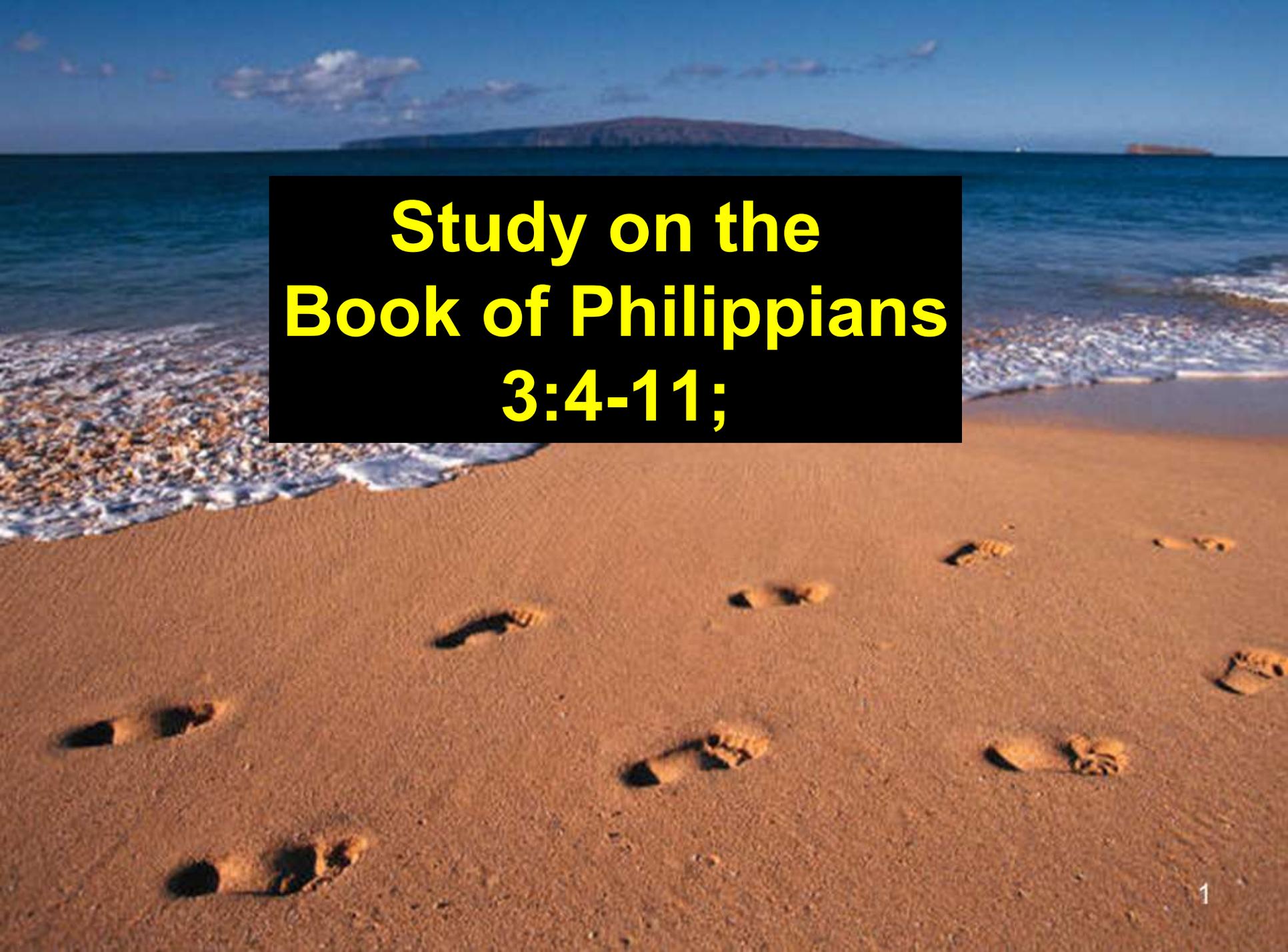
**Study on the
Book of Philippians
3:1-3;**

**Prepared by
Graeme Morrison**

graemestudy@gmail.com

<https://www.graemebibleresources.com>

Next in the series:- Phil 3:4-11;



**Study on the
Book of Philippians
3:4-11;**

Phil 3:4; “though I myself might have confidence even in the flesh: if any other man thinks to have confidence in the flesh, I yet more.”

Paul had used himself as an example to the Philippians as to **how to handle persecution.**
(Phil 2:17;)

Now he uses himself as an example of one who very well could have **gloried in the flesh** as opposed to Christ.

If ever one had all the opportunities to glory in the flesh it would have been Paul **due to his background as a Jew.**

Phil 3:5; “For I was circumcised when I was eight days old, having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish family that is a branch of the tribe of Benjamin. So I am a real Jew if there ever was one! What's more, I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.”

Paul was meeting his adversaries (the Judaizers) on their own ground. Paul sets out to prove that though one may have a grand background **no achievement, on a fleshly level, can remove one sin.**

The **first part** of Paul's being that could cause him to boast in the flesh was his circumcision.

Ritual purity Paul was **circumcised** on the 8th day of his life as the Mosaic Law had commanded.
(cf. Gen 17:12ff; Lev 2:21; 12:3;)

Paul was a true Jew and one who was compliant with the Mosaic Law from his days of infancy (necessarily infers that Paul's parents were faithful to the Mosaic Law.)

Phil 3:5; “For I was circumcised when I was eight days old, having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish family that is a branch of the tribe of Benjamin. So I am a real Jew if there ever was one! What's more, I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.”

Secondly, Racial purity Paul states that he is “of the **stock of Israel.**” To be of the “stock” (genos) of Israel is to be of the “race, stock, family.”

Israel was the name given to **Jacob** at Genesis 32:24ff;
Paul was **a direct descendent** of Jacob and therefore of Abraham.

The Jews took great pride in their ancestral forefather Abraham. (cf. John 8:39ff;)
Abraham was known as the **friend of God.** (James 2:23;)

Phil 3:5; “For I was circumcised when I was eight days old, having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish family that is a branch of the tribe of Benjamin. So I am a real Jew if there ever was one! What's more, I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.”

Thirdly, Paul claims to be “of the tribe of Benjamin.”

Rom 11:1; Benjamin was the son of Jacob by his favoured wife Rachel.

The tribe of Benjamin produced Israel's first King; i.e., **Saul**. (I Sam 9:1ff;)

Benjamin was small yet very strong with Judah as the southern kingdom. (I Sam 9:21; I Kings 12:21;)

Phil 3:5; “For I was circumcised when I was eight days old, having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish family that is a branch of the tribe of Benjamin. So I am a real Jew if there ever was one! What's more, I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.”

Fourthly, Cultural purity Paul states that he was a **“Hebrew of Hebrews.”**

(A purist, resisted Hellenization Acts 6:1)

This likely has to do with his maintaining the Hebrew language. (cf. Acts 21:40; 22:2;)

While many of Paul's contemporaries had given over to the language of the day; **Greek**, (not learning the language of their fathers.)

Paul **maintained** his native tongue.
Paul's upbringing was **totally Jewish**.
(Acts 26:4-5;)

Phil 3:5; “For I was circumcised when I was eight days old, having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish family that is a branch of the tribe of Benjamin. So I am a real Jew if there ever was one! What's more, I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.”

Fifthly, Religiously zealous Paul states, “as touching the law, a Pharisee.” Paul had been instructed by Gamaliel. (a doctor of the Mosaic Law.) (Acts 22:3;)

Paul was at one time recognized as **a Pharisee.** (the separated ones.) traditionalists, strictest sect; persecuted the church, John 16:2,3; Acts 8:3; 22:3-4; 26:5,9,10; Gal 1:13-14; Rom 10:1-3;)

The Pharisees were **a strict sect** of the Jews who were known for their knowledge of not only **the Mosaic Law** but **the Mishna** as well. (a set of oral traditions passed down from the fathers.) (cf. Matt 15:1ff;)

Phil 3:6; “And zealous? Yes, in fact, I harshly persecuted the church. And I obeyed the Jewish law so carefully that I was never accused of any fault.”

From a purely **Jewish** standpoint

Paul could have put his **confidence in the flesh** because of his ancestry, relation to the Law of Moses, and being a man of the law. (a Pharisee.)

Furthermore, Paul could have confidence in the flesh in that he was so zealous for the Mosaic Law that he “persecuted the church.”

Christianity was known by the Jews as “**the way**”
(cf. Acts 9:1ff;)

The way showed that the **Mosaic Law** was no longer valid due to its **inability to forgive man** of their sins (cf. Heb. 7:18-19). Such a movement was offensive to the Jews (Acts 9:1ff) even though the Law itself foretold of this event. (cf. Jer. 31:31ff;)

Phil 3:6; “And zealous? Yes, in fact, I harshly persecuted the church. And I obeyed the Jewish law so carefully that I was never accused of any fault.”

Paul further states, “as touching **the righteousness** which is in the law, he was found **blameless.**”

The right ways of the **Mosaic Law** was to **follow all its ordinances.** (cf. Deut. 27:26; Gal 3:10;)

Paul is not claiming infallibility or perfection but rather he is simply making the point That **to the best of his abilities** he **followed the Mosaic Law**, the requirements of **the traditions and rules of his religion**, so that **no man could say otherwise.**

Phil 3:7; “I once thought these things were valuable,
but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.”

Losing It All To Gain Christ. The Deal of A Lifetime!

My righteousness gains nothing.

“If anyone thought that he would have a reason
to **save himself**, it would be I.” Phil 3:4; Living Bible

Paul was **faultless in the eyes of the Law.**
Phil 3:6;

Phil 3:7; “I once thought these things were valuable,
but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.”

Paul learned that **no flesh
will be justified in God’s sight
by the works of the Law.**

(Rom 3:20a; Gal 5:4;)

I worked myself to the bone, I piled up
one credit after another of **human righteousness,**
and **now I realise** that if you haven’t done it my way,
you haven’t missed a thing
because all of that **gained me nothing.**

Phil 3:7; “I once thought these things were valuable,
but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.”

Redemption is found only by God’s Grace.

**Paul’s faith gains him righteousness
through the blood of Christ.**

(Rom 3:24; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Gal 3:24-28;)

“Christ also suffered when he died for our sins
once for all time. He never sinned,
but he died for sinners that he might bring us
safely home to God. He suffered physical death,
but he was raised to life in the Spirit.” 1Pet 3:18;

We receive His righteousness. 2 Cor 5:21;

“For God made Christ, **who never sinned,**
to be the offering for our sin, so that we
could be **made right with God through Christ.**”

Phil 3:7; “I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.”

Paul changed his view of his prior spiritual achievements: Paul’s saw that his gain (i.e., his ancestry, training, zeal for the law, etc.) actually turned out to be a **“loss” (zemia) (for Christ) = “loss, damage, a penalty, fine, a mere good for nothing, a dead loss.”**

Apparently Paul is saying that all that which **SEEMS** to be great and godly actually turned out to be **worthless** in relation to **receiving the forgiveness of one’s sins through Christ.**

Those Jews who currently have **the zeal and pedigree** that Paul once owned are **losing out on the grace of God.**
(i.e., the forgiveness of their sins. [cf. Eph. 1:7;])

Phil 3:8; “But indeed, therefore, I also count all things to be loss because of the excelling knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, because of whom I have lost all things, and esteem them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

Paul emphasizes that **this knowledge of Christ** is **“the only knowledge worth having,** a knowledge so transcendent in value that it compensates for the loss of everything else.” [F.F. Bruce]

He lost his position in the Jewish hierarchy.
His good standing among his fellow countrymen.

His friends turned their backs on him.
He went from being one of the most loved men among the Jews to being one of the most hated.

He abandoned a safe existence,
and ultimately he would lose his life.

Phil 3:8; “But indeed, therefore, I also count all things to be loss because of the excelling knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, because of whom I have lost all things, and esteem them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

The **“all things”** that Paul considers **“loss”** (**good for nothing**) are all things which one may place their hope (confidence) in that **do not remove sins.**

Note that the **“all things”** of **fleshly reasoning** are put in contrast to **“the Excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus.”**

The **power of the gospel** is that it **saves men from the consequence of sin** by revealing to man what they must do to receive the remission of sins (cf. Rom 1:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Eph 1:7; etc.)

Phil 3:8; “But indeed, therefore, I also count all things to be loss because of the excelling knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, because of whom I have lost all things, and esteem them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

The “**all things**”

(Mosaic Law, man’s fleshly religious ideas, etc.)
can in **no way remove one sin** while
the Law of Christ through His grace
instructs man how to receive the remission of sins.

When Paul became a Christian he cast the
“all things” (the Mosaic Law and his fleshly wisdom)
aside as though they were worthless and thereby
“counted them but refuse” (skubalon) = **“dung**
(the excrement of animals / manure), filth, refuse.”

Phil 3:8; “But indeed, therefore, I also count all things to be loss because of the excelling knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, because of whom I have lost all things, and esteem them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

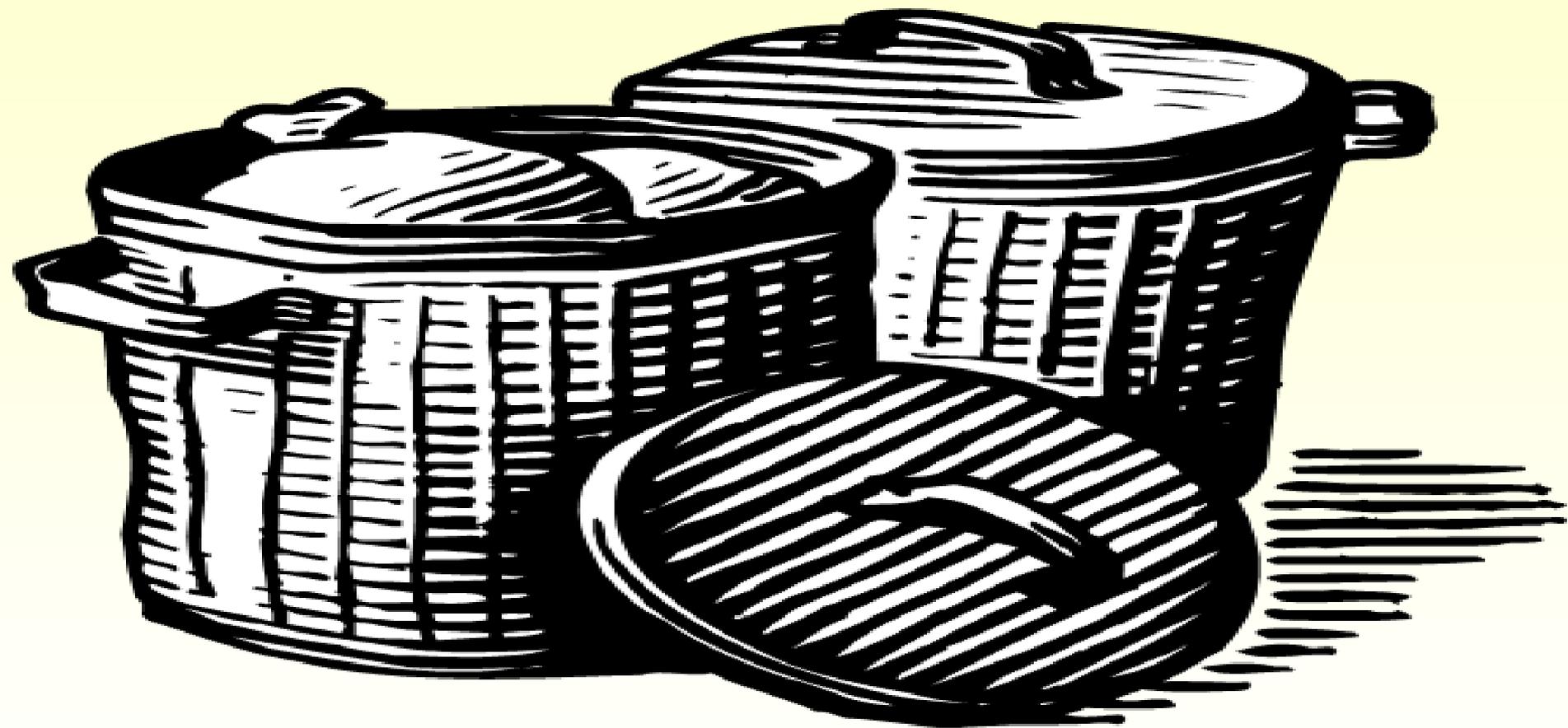
“rubbish” “refuse (such as excrements, dregs, dross) cast to the dogs,”

“A **“loss”** is of something having value; But “refuse” is thrown away as not worthy of being any more touched or looked at.”

Jamieson, Fausset & Brown Bible Commentary

Phil 3:8; “But indeed, therefore, I also count all things to be loss because of the excelling knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, because of whom I have lost all things, and esteem them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

LAW KEEPING IS WORTHLESS RUBBISH



**IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET TO HEAVEN
TRUSTING IN OUR OWN GOOD WORKS.**

Phil 3:8; “But indeed, therefore, I also count all things to be loss because of the excelling knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, because of whom I have lost all things, and esteem them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

Mosaic Law is **not** in of itself **“worthless”**
(cf. Rom. 3:31; 15:4; I Cor. 10:11; Gal. 3:19);
however, **in relation to removing sins**
indeed it has **no power**. (cf. Heb 7:18-19; 10:1ff;)

When Paul cast off living in hope through the Mosaic system and **put on the gospel message of Christ** he **“gained Christ”** in that he received the **forgiveness of his sins** and thereby **fellowship with Christ**. (Paul was in Christ / Gal 3:27;)

Phil 3:8; “But indeed, therefore, I also count all things to be loss because of the excelling knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, because of whom I have lost all things, and esteem them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

3:8; **“to GAIN Christ”** [To Win Christ]
to receive and share every blessing in Christ.

3:9; **“To be FOUND in Christ”**
[The sphere of every spiritual blessing]
(Gal 3:26,27; John 15:1-10; Eph 1:3ff;)

3:9; To be **RIGHTEOUS** through **faith in Christ**.
[right standing before God
cannot be merited, but must be received]
(Rom 3:21; 4:8; 6:16-19; Acts 2:38; 22:16;

Phil 3:9; “and be found in him, not because I have my own righteousness derived from the law, but because I have the righteousness that comes by way of Christ's faithfulness, a righteousness from God that is in fact based on Christ's faithfulness.”

The idea of **seeking righteousness** by any means **other than Christ** is recognized as “**mine own**” as opposed to **righteousness through Christ**.

Paul has referred to such efforts as “**confidence in the flesh**.” (Phil 3:3;)

The **contrast** between the “**knowledge of Christ**” (Phil 3:8;) and “**confidence in the flesh**” continues.

True righteousness (a state of being clean and right before the eyes of Yahweh God) can only be found “**through a relationship with Christ**.”

Phil 3:9; “and be found in him, not because I have my own righteousness derived from the law, but because I have the righteousness that comes by way of Christ's faithfulness, a righteousness from God that is in fact based on Christ's faithfulness.”

This helps us to see that just because **one says they believe in Christ** (the Jews certainly believed in the coming of the Messiah) does not mean that such are **entitled to the forgiveness of sins.**

There is only **one faith** delivered by the Spirit through the apostles and prophets.
(cf. Eph 3:5; 4:1ff; Jude 3;)

Any faith apart from the **one truth (standard of God)** is truly worthless
In relation to removing one's sins.

Phil 3:9; “and be found in him, not because I have my own righteousness derived from the law, but because I have the righteousness that comes by way of Christ's faithfulness, a righteousness from God that is in fact based on Christ's faithfulness.”

Note that Paul continues the idea of **“gaining Christ”** by saying, **“And be found in Him.”**

Without the verse divisions the sentence reads, **“...that I may gain Christ, and be found in Him..”** so that **gaining Christ equals being found in Him.**

**Paul gives 7 ways
to be found in Christ.**

First, “not having a righteousness of mine own” will help one get into Christ.

Secondly, it is “through faith in Christ” that one gains Christ and found in Him.

Phil 3:9; “and be found in him, not because I have my own righteousness derived from the law, but because I have the righteousness that comes by way of Christ's faithfulness, a righteousness from God that is in fact based on Christ's faithfulness.”

Paul identifies what it means
to be **“found in Christ”** (cf. 3:9a;)

To be **“found in Christ”** is to **come into a relationship with God through Christ.**

To be **“found in Christ”** is to **reject self deluded religious ideology** (2 Cor 1:12; 2:17;) and **accept the teachings** of Jesus Christ.
(Phil 3:9; I John 2:4-5;)

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death,.”

Third way that one may be “found in Christ” is that **“I may know him.”**

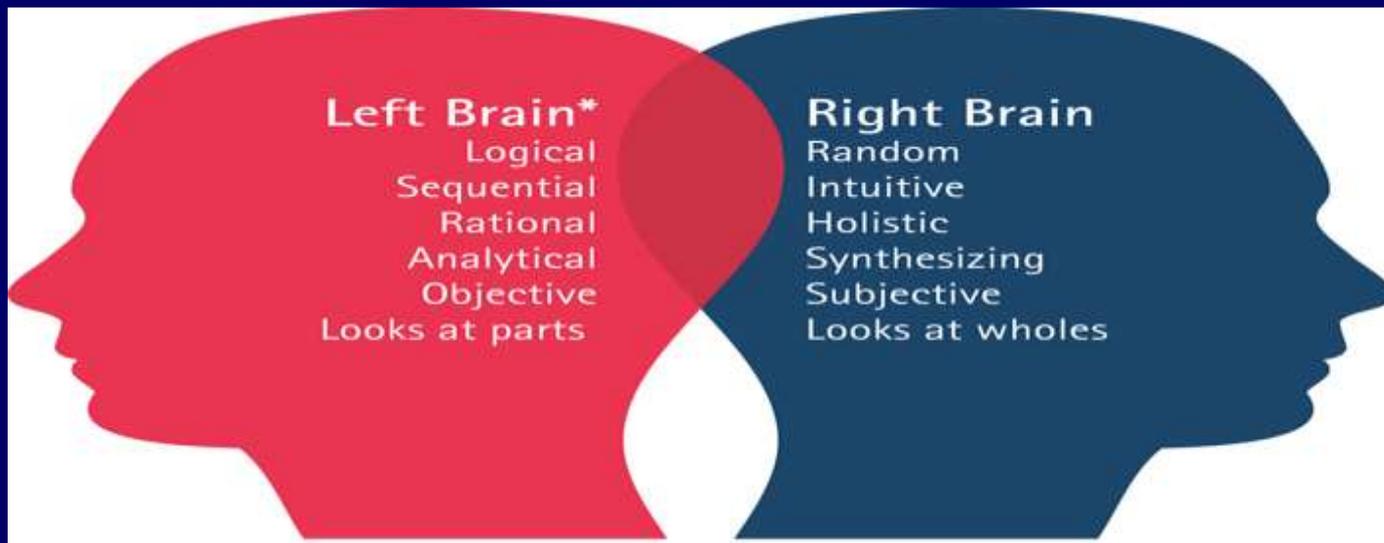
The only way to know who Jesus is and what Jesus has done is through the word of God.

Paul's desire to get **as close to Jesus** as he could possibly be.

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death,.”

Up until this point, Paul is the teacher using his analytical skills to teach the great truths that have been entrusted to the apostle to the gentiles.

At this point, Paul breaks out in an emotional outburst with strong intimate desires to experience his Lord to the deepest of all depths. He desperately wants to...



Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death.”

Know God deeper!

Paul already knows God (vs: 8) which really is the essence of his and our salvation. What Paul is longing so deeply for is what the psalmist wrote a thousand years earlier in Psalm 42...

**“As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So my soul pants for You, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;
When shall I come and appear before God?”**

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death,.”

Remember this hymn?

More about Jesus would I know,
More of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.
More, more about Jesus,

**More, more about Jesus;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.**

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death.”

The apostle John said, “He that says, **I know him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (I John 2:4;)**

**How can I keep God's commandments if I have no clue as to His revelation?
(John 12:48; 2 Tim 2:16;)**

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death.”

Fourthly, to be “found in Christ” is to know “the power of his resurrection.”

The power of **Christ revelation** is that it illustrates God's power to forgive mankind of their sins.
(Rom 1:4;)

Jesus predicted his resurrection at John 2:19, it occurred as witnessed by many, (I Cor 15:3-8;) and thereby **God has the power to forgive mankind of their sins.** (Acts 2:32, 38;)

These **facts** are the gist of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians at Ephesians 1:15-20;

Phil 3:8; “But indeed, therefore, I also count all things to be loss because of the excelling knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, because of whom I have lost all things, and esteem them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

3:10; To **KNOW** Christ.

[not merely to know about Him, but **to know Him.**]

3:10; To **know the power of His resurrection.**

[empowerment] (Rom 6:4; Col 3:1-2; Eph 1:18-20;)

3:10; **To know the fellowship of Christ’s Sufferings.**

Being **conformed** to His death.

[living for Christ / dying to self]

(1:29; Luke 9:23; Rom 6; 2 Cor 4:10,11;

Gal 2:20,21; Col 3:3;)

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death.”

In Acts 2.24; we are given a glimpse of the power used to raise Christ...

“But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.”

Paul's desire is to experience the same power used in Christ's resurrection in his everyday life.

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death.”

Fifthly, to be “found in Christ” is to experience the “**fellowship of his sufferings.**”

This point seems to be **the thread** that connects Philippians chapter 1, 2, and 3.

At **chapter one** Paul states that **suffering on behalf of Christ** was “**granted**” by God to all Christians (Phil 1:29;)

Chapter two reveals the method one may **overcome suffering** at the hands of wicked men. (by having **the mind of Christ;**) (Phil 2:1-5;)

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death.”

We know very little of what it means to suffer for the cause of Christ and the immense intimacy with the Lord that follows. Remember the jail bird Paul in Acts 16.25;?

“But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death.”

Now at chapter three, Paul has revealed that **access to salvation is only found In the teachings of Jesus Christ.**

When I hold to these teachings I will expose the sins of others and **thereby suffer as did Christ.**
(John 7:7;)

When I live in such a way that I suffer for doing that which is right I have been “**found In Christ**” because I “**fellowship his sufferings.**”

Such is the lot for the Christian life.
(Acts 14:22; 1 Thess 3:3; 2 Tim 3:12;)

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death,.”

Paul's suffering Acts 27; and 2 Cor 11;



Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death.”

That which causes us to continue forward in relation to said suffering is that “I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us” (Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:16ff;)

The Christian fellowships Jesus' suffering in many ways. We may find ourselves as an outcast at work or school because our language and way of life condemn others.

The world sees our sanctification, at the same time they are convicted of their wrong. We can suffer by simply living the Christian life.

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death.”

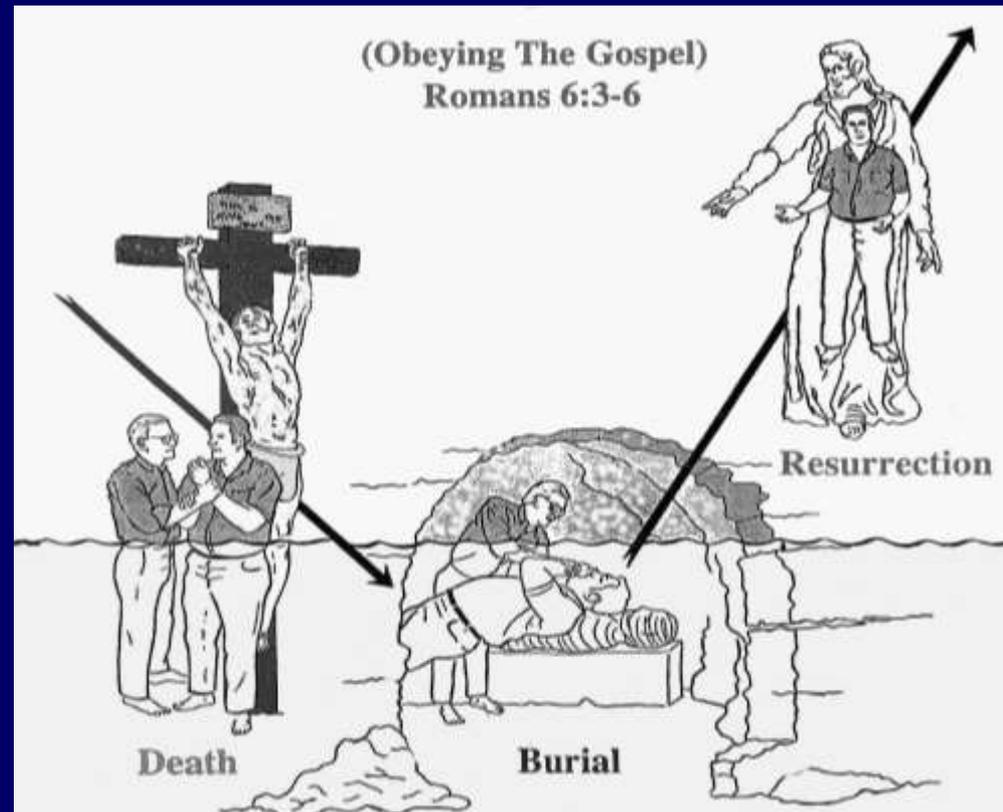
Sixthly, to be **“found in Christ”** is to be **“conformed unto his death.”** To be **“conformed”** to the death of Christ is **to live as Christ lived** to the point of death.

Christ was **separate from sin** (Heb 4:15;) and so must the Christian be. (Matt 5:48;) We need to **kill the old man of sinful interests** in our lives continuously.
(Rom 6:1-7; 8:1-11, 29; Gal 2:20; 6:14; Col 3:1-4;)

The more **we share in the suffering of Christ** through **godly living** the more we are **conformed to His life and death.**

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death,.”

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his suffering.”



**Is our life just a trivial pursuit
Or have we truly Died with Christ.**

Phil 3:10; “that I may know Christ, and know the power that his coming back to life gives and what it means to share his suffering. In this way I'm becoming like him in his death.”

Paul said that he was,
“pursued, yet not forsaken; smitten down,
yet not destroyed; Always bearing about in
the body the dying of Jesus, that the life also
of Jesus may be manifested in our body.”

“For we who live are always delivered unto death
for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus may be
manifested in our mortal flesh” (2 Cor 4:9-11;)

The more knowledge of Christ I gain the more like Him
I become. (**I John 2:6;**) I will handle my sufferings like Christ.
I will speak like Christ. **I will** react to certain situations
Like Christ. **I will** be found in places that glorify Christ.
I will have “the mind of Christ” (**Phil 2:5;**)

Phil 3:11; “with the confident expectation that I will come back to life from the dead.”

Seventh, to be “found in Christ” (Phil 3:9;) is to “be confident of the resurrection from the dead.”

There will be a **general resurrection** of both just and unjust. (John 5:27-29; Acts 24:15;)

The resurrection under consideration is the glorious resurrection of the saints of God that will go home to be with Him into eternity. (see following context.) (I Thess 4:13ff;)

The word in KJV “**attain**” (**katantao**) = “to come to, arrive at, to reach, attain.” (Moulton 218)

We know that Paul’s interest is not being **resurrected to eternal torment** but rather **to eternal bliss.**

Phil 3:11; “with the confident expectation
that I will come back to life from the dead.”

Resurrection to a heavenly life is worth attaining
by every sacrifice, and by every possible means.

Matt 16:24-27; 24 “Then Jesus said to His disciples,
“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny
himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

25 “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

26 “For what profit is it to a man if he gains
the whole world, and loses his own soul?
Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

27 “For the Son of Man will come in the glory
of His Father with His angels, and then
He will reward each according to his works.”

Phil 3:11; “with the confident expectation that I will come back to life from the dead.”

If Paul is **“found in Christ”**

he will be **resurrected to an eternal life of bliss** with the heavenly Father.

Now that **all seven ways** to be **“found in Christ”** are given, let us note what else Paul has said about being found **“in Christ.”**

Remember, the context illustrates the fact that **“confidence in the flesh”** and looking for **righteousness** in our **“own”** thinking will never remove one sin or cause one to be **“in Christ.”**

Phil 3:11; “with the confident expectation that I will come back to life from the dead.”

Our salvation is **on God's terms** not ours
Grace is at the heart of our salvation,
Enabling **access to salvation**
and is **at the root of our daily lives.**

We are saved by God's grace
and we live by God's grace.

Justice is getting
what you deserve
Mercy is not getting
what you deserve
Grace is getting
what you don't deserve

S
GRACE
V
E
D
BY

Phil 3:11; “with the confident expectation that I will come back to life from the dead.”

One **“gains Christ”**

when receiving **the forgiveness of sins**
Through the blood of Christ.

“But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of His **great love** with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), and **raised us up with Him**, and **seated us with Him** in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” Ephes 2

The NT reveals **baptism** in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is where **we contact the blood of Christ** and is the point at which we receive the **forgiveness of sins.**
(Matt 28:18ff; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16;)

Phil 3:11; “with the confident expectation that I will come back to life from the dead.”

Note that the apostle Paul tells the Galatians that **baptism moves one “into Christ”** (Gal 3:27;)

Clearly one **gets into Christ (accesses the blood of Christ)** through baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

One remains in Christ by repentance and humbly asking the Lord for forgiveness so that in the end he / she may **be “found in Christ.”**

Phil 3:11; “with the confident expectation
that I will come back to life from the dead.”

Grace is sufficient to get us through.

After begging God on three major occasions
to remove an unnamed thorn in the flesh,
God’s response was... **2 Cor 12:9;**

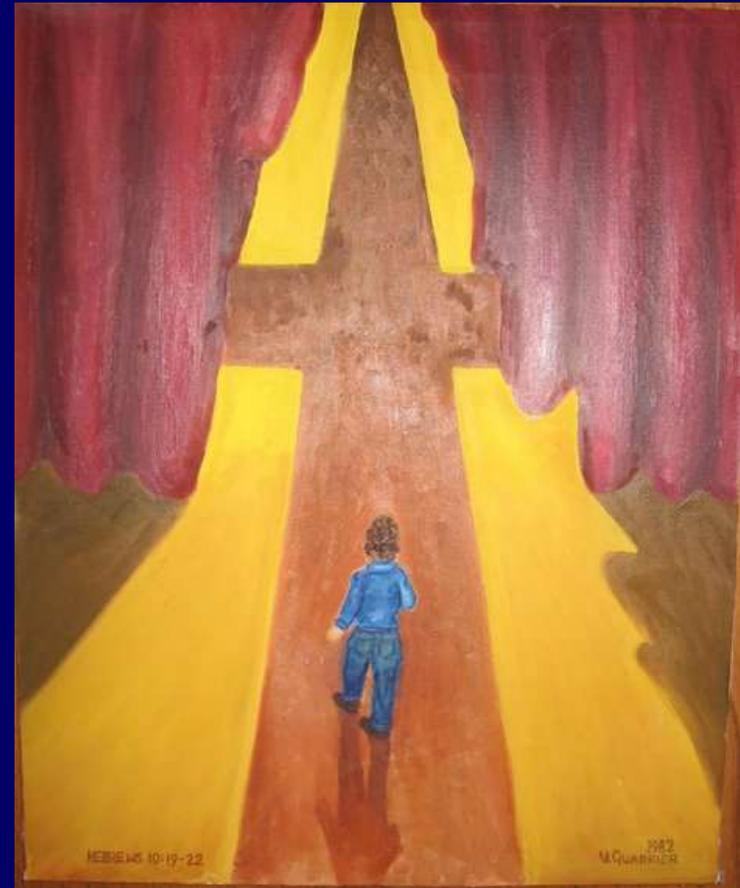
“And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for
you, for power is perfected in weakness.”
Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about
my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ
may dwell in me.”

“Therefore I am well content with weaknesses,
with insults, with distresses, with persecutions,
with difficulties, for Christ’s sake;
for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Phil 3:11; “with the confident expectation that I will come back to life from the dead.”

Grace gains us access to the throne of God.

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of **grace**, so that we may receive mercy and find **grace** to help in time of need.
Hebrews 4.

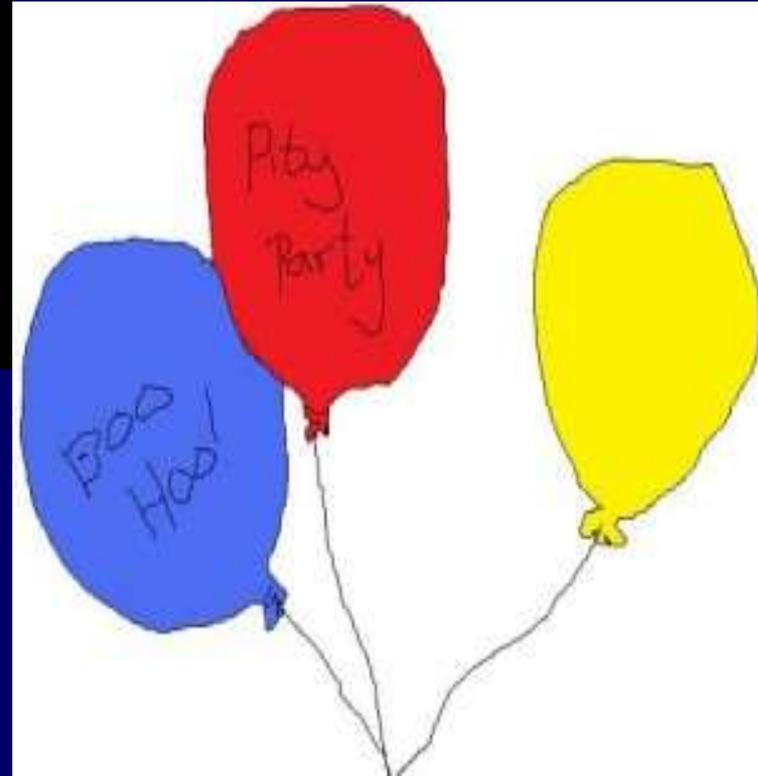


Phil 3:11; “with the confident expectation that I will come back to life from the dead.”

The next time you or someone is all upset with not getting out of life what they want, have them pray this prayer.

Dear Lord,

**I feel so sorry for myself,
please give me what I deserve.**



Phil 3:11; “with the confident expectation that I will come back to life from the dead.”

Understanding God’s grace is the basis of a victorious Christian life.

“For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. Romans 5



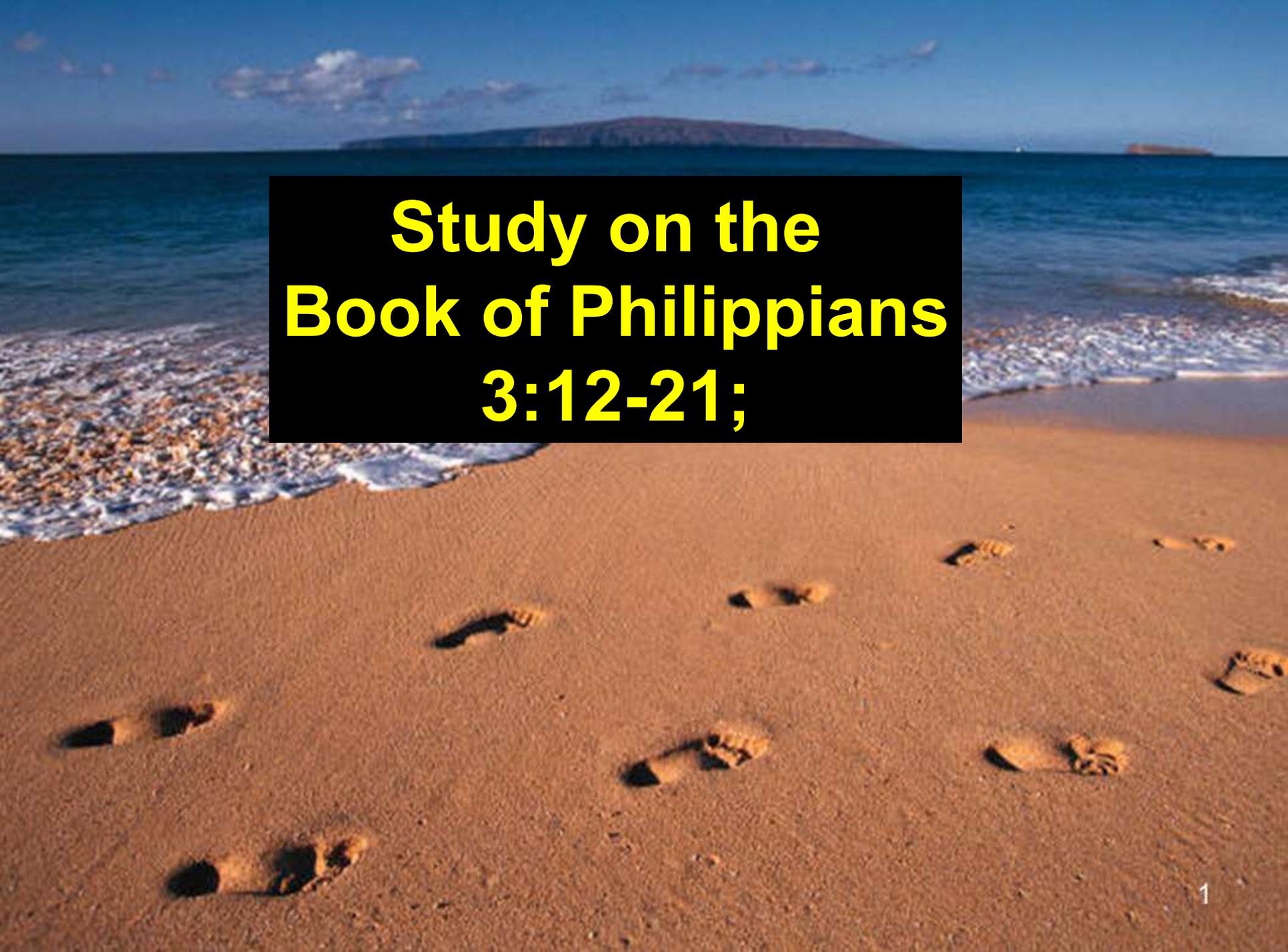
**Study on the
Book of Philippians
3:4-11;**

**Prepared by
Graeme Morrison**

graemestudy@gmail.com

<https://www.graemebibleresources.com>

Next in the series:- Phil 3:12-21;



**Study on the
Book of Philippians
3:12-21;**

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

After dealing with perhaps the most precious of all biblical teachings, **salvation by grace of God accessed through the blood of Christ.**

Paul delves into a rarely discussed topic:-
Christian perfectionism.

For the remainder of chapter 3, Paul uses himself as an example for what every Christian is to dedicate himself or herself to, that of becoming perfect.

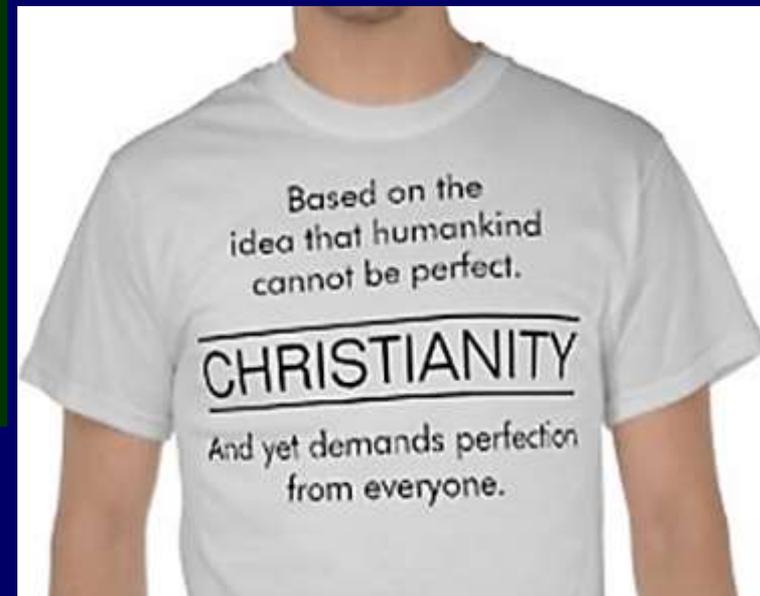
The fact is that while still on earth **perfection is to be a passion** and yet all the while unattainable.

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

God's Mandate for His People to be Perfect

Is it biblical to pursue being perfect as a Christian?

“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly **Father is perfect.**” Matt 5
Jesus is reiterating
Deuteronomy 18.13;



“but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all your behaviour;** because it is written, “**You shall be holy, for I am holy.**” I Peter 1;
The Apostle is again reaffirming Leviticus 19.2;

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

Paul has **not “obtained”** unto the resurrection of the dead and eternal heavenly bliss.
Paul has not attained **“perfect”** status.

What Paul has is the forgiveness of his sins through Christ and a true hope of heaven but he has **not “obtained” eternal “perfection.”**

The idea of **“perfection”** here is in relation to one's sins and relationship with Christ.

To be **“perfect” (teleioo)** =
“to make perfect, complete: accomplish...
of persons, to bring one to perfection”

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

Perfect: τέλειος *téleios*;
meaning perfect, complete, and mature.

Holy: ἅγιος *hágios*; meaning set apart, chaste, pure.
God is separated from anything sinful
and so should we strive to be.

In many passages, **God Himself becomes the standard of moral perfection and sinlessness** that we are to emulate. Nothing less is demanded.

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

Question? Other than the Lord Jesus, has any person able to make a choice ever lived a perfect life from cradle to grave?

Answer: No

What about after salvation, did anyone ever strive so hard that he or she became sinless?

Answer: No

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

What **biblical support** is there that earthly perfection is not possible?

“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.” I John 1:8;

“For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.”

Romans 7:19;

“When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to a land far off or near,”

2 Chronicles 6:36;

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

**Why then aim at perfection
if perfection is impossible to achieve?**

**Because if you aim
at anything less
you will achieve less.**



Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

Two wrong directions are taken
in response to this ideal:-

Those who don't take God's commandment seriously because no one can achieve it, they all but ignore the commandment. (Most of us?)

Those who believe they have reached experiential perfection in this life.

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

Who is this second group?

“**Higher Life Movement**” from mid 1800’s England,
aka the “**Keswick Theology**”
(because of conventions held in Keswick),

Also the **American Holiness movement**,
promotes the idea that true **sanctification**
(**perfection**) comes from a **second blessing**
that is a post-salvation experience.

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

Things To **Focus** on While **Pursuing Christian Perfectionism.**

There appears to be an abrupt **change of direction**
from verses 3:11 and 12;

11 “in order that I may attain
to the resurrection from the dead.”

12 “Not that I have already obtained it or have
already become perfect, but I press on so that
I may lay hold of that for which also
I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Verse 11 seems to be about **heaven** and
verse 12 seems to be about **living**
a perfect life. What is the connection?

MR. PERFECT



Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

When you think about **heaven,
what aspect of heaven appeals to you the most?**

**1. Being in the presence of the Lord
and knowing Him intimately for eternity?**

Luke 23:43; John 17:1-3; I Thessalonians 4:17;

2. New resurrection bodies? – I Corinthians 15;

**3. Fellowship of loved ones and the body of Christ?
I Thessalonians 4:13-18;**

4. Pure joy, pure happiness? – Rev 7:16-17;

5. Moral and spiritual perfection? – Philipp 3:12-14;

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

Does your sin really bother you?

Unlike perhaps the majority of believers, when Paul thought about heaven the cessation from sin was huge for him.

The fistfight which he constantly encountered between his spirit and his flesh, as outlined in Rom 7 was constantly his nemesis.

Heaven meant among other things, **no more sin!**
This **sin** robs God of His glory and is the antithesis of everything Paul believed.

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

We need to determine what it truly means to be a perfect Christian

Paul uses the term **“already”** twice, indicating that he does not put himself in the camp of those who say they attained perfection.

In verse 13a he repeats it a third time.

Paul also sees that perfection is to be a lifetime pursuit

In addition, one of the reasons God has saved us is that we would **become** driven to be perfect.



Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

Two prominent views:-

- 1) Perfect **intimacy** with God. (“know Him” from verse 10)
- 2) **Moral perfection**, that is blameless and without sin

Answer: How could it not be both, since both are intimately related?

A Christian who pursues **only intimacy** with God without attention to sin is guilty of antinomianism (saved by grace – do anything I want.)

A person who pursues **moral perfection** without intimacy with God is a legalist. (prodigal son's brother).

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

Man can only **be complete** when he has accomplished this life. When I die my life is finished.

How will Christ then “find me?”

Paul's prayer is to be “**found in Christ**” through **the forgiveness of sins**.

Obtaining **perfection is equated** to attaining unto the resurrection of the dead!

The word “**perfect**” is placed in “perfect tense” (Friberg 608) (a verb form **expressing action completed prior to a fixed point of reference in time**).

So Paul states that **his perfection** has not occurred before its heavenly time.

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

While we are in the flesh we wage war with Satan and **sometimes lose. (Rom 7:20;)**

We need to continue and not give up (humbly asking Jesus to forgive us.) (Acts 8:22; I John 1:9-10;).

The task at hand, while among the living, is to continue to “press on,****

if so be that **I may lay hold on that for which also I was **laid hold on by** Christ Jesus.”
(i.e., perfection / an existence without sin).**

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

It is the **“goal”** of every Christian **to attain heavenly perfection**; however, until that time comes we must continue to **“pursue” (press)** that objective.

These verses help us understand that one does not obey the gospel, gain the forgiveness of sins, and then sit back doing nothing. (Rev 2:10;)

Satan is not sitting back doing nothing.
(1 Pet 5:8;)

“Be careful- watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart.”

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

We will sin from time to time and therefore we must **continue to pursue our goal** of heaven with humility, repentance, and forgiveness of sins.
(Psa 51 all and Isa 57:15;)

God **“calls”** all into the gates of heaven who would so desire to live **through the gospel message.**
(2 Thess 2:14; 2 Pet 3:9;)

“He **called** you to salvation when **we told you the Good News;** now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Phil 3:13; “No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be,
but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing:
Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,”**

**Paul had not laid hold on that for which Christ
had laid hold on him, but in order to do so he would-**

**“forget the things that are behind us
and stretch forward to the things ahead.”
 (“the goal unto the prize of the high calling
of God in Christ Jesus.”)**

(Attaining the heavenly resurrection of the dead.)

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

What is the believer's conundrum?

14 “For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.”

18 “For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.”

Romans 7;



Phil 3:13; “ Brothers, I do not reckon myself as having taken hold of it;
I can only say that forgetting all that lies behind me,
and straining forward to what lies in front,”

Forget the past.



I run straight towards the goal
Phil 3:14;

We like to **remember**
what we ought to **forget**
and we **forget**
what we ought to **remember.**

We slow down
because we keep remembering
what **God chose to forget.**

We need to Forget daily.
Don't let the devil
slow us down.

Phil 3:12; “I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be.”

Question? In what way does your past block your present maturing and your way to Christian maturity and perfection?

Paul's past... “even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. **Yet I was shown mercy** because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;” I Timothy 1:13;



Phil 3:13; “ Brothers, I do not reckon myself as having taken hold of it;
I can only say that forgetting all that lies behind me,
and straining forward to what lies in front,”

**Here are some of the reasons
how our past can impact our present.**

Unconfessed sin. – I John 1:9; James 5:16;

Not really believing that we are forgiven. – 2 Pet 1:9;

Not forgiving our self. – Hebrews 4:16;

Not forgiven others for past offences –Matt 18:21-35;

**Not understanding how our past
is involved in shaping our present.**

Phil 3:13; “ Brothers, I do not reckon myself as having taken hold of it;
I can only say that forgetting all that lies behind me,
and straining forward to what lies in front,”

**Paul is NOT saying,
“You need to strain to be saved**



**Paul is saying, “because Christ has embraced me,
because Christ has pursued me,
I’m going to spend the rest of my life
pursuing Christ.”**

**WE try to work out that salvation,
God has already worked in.**

Philippians 2



Phil 3:13; “ Brothers, I do not reckon myself as having taken hold of it;
I can only say that forgetting all that lies behind me,
and straining forward to what lies in front,”

**The Bible says it is possible for US to morph
Into something better and greater.**

**“My dear children, for whom I am gain in the pains
of childbirth until **Christ is morphed** in you.”**

Galatians 4:19;

**“We, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s
glory, are **being morphed into his likeness** with
ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord,
who is the Spirit.” **2 Cor 3:18;****

Phil 3:13; “No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be,
but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing:
Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,”

Reaching forward **epekteinomenos**, stretching forward as a runner stretches to break the ribbon at the end of a race, to the things which are ahead, the glories of eternal salvation.

Pressing - dioko, steadily pursuing, toward the **prize** of the **upward call of God** which is **in Christ Jesus**. This is the steady leading of God to that salvation which is only found in Christ Jesus .

Paul calls upon **mature Christians** to have this **same mind** with regard to salvation. Having **heaven as our ultimate goal** is the sign of a mature Christian. **They were to continue thinking in this way.**

Phil 3:13; “No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be,
but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing:
Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,”

A woman's prayer

Forgive me God because I am not what I ought to be,
Help me God because I am not what I am going to
be, **Thank you** God that I am not what I used to be.
forgive me God help me thank you God.

A persons mission and ministry for the lord is never
complete as long as we are able to continue

Phil 3:14; “I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.”

John Stephen Akhwari



“My country didn’t send me 7000 miles to **start** the race, they sent me 7000 miles to **finish it.**”

Phil 3:14; “I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.”

Understand what is at stake here.

Strip ourselves of anything that **prevents us** from attaining our goal.

Pray that **God will help us** on this journey of pleasing Him through this process.

Involve ourselves in those activities that promote maturity and perfection:
Know God’s word, prayer, fellowship, and service.

Be honest with ourselves about our progress.

Phil 3:14; “I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.”

Stay in touch with the Holy Spirit. Gal 5:25;

Run every time the Spirit says run.

Obey every time the Spirit says obey. 2 Cor 3:18;



I run straight towards the goal
Phil 3:14;

“Forget about the past and run.
Listen to the coach and run.”

Focus on the goal.
Paul would not let anything
take his eye off that goal.
2 Timothy 4:7-8;

Phil 3:15; “Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also shall God reveal unto you.”

To be **“thus minded”** then is to have the mind of pressing and pursuing the goal of attaining unto the resurrection of the dead.

(The prize of the high calling of God) (heaven.)

The one who is **“thus minded”** is termed **“perfect” (teleios)** by Paul.

Teleios equals “having reached its end, finished, complete... of persons, absolute, complete, accomplished, perfect in his or its kind, mature.”

“Fully accomplished in Christian enlightenment.”
(Moulton 400).

The same word is translated **“full grown”** at I Cor 2:6; and **“perfect”** at Colossians 1:28;

Phil 3:15; “Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also shall God reveal unto you.”

Clearly it is to be the **objective** of every Christian to make it to heaven. Such a “**goal**” is revealed in the “**high calling of God.**”
(**through the gospel message.**)

I am **perfect (mature)** when **my goal is heaven** and I seek to keep myself “**in Christ**” by having the forgiveness of my sins.

When I sin, I take care of it with God to continue to press into heaven. (I John 1:9-10;)

While I am in the flesh, no matter what level of knowledge I may attain in Christ,
I have not met my end goal of attaining unto the resurrection of the dead.

Phil 3:15; “Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also shall God reveal unto you.”

**This being so, no matter who I am,
I must continue to press on.**

**Bible perfection is a state of mind, (Heb 5:14-6:1;)
having one’s sins forgiven, (Matt 5:48; Heb 7:18-19;
10:1ff; I Pet 1:15-16;)
and the future of all faithful saints. (Phil 3:12;)**

**The perfection of the saints encompasses
all that one is now and will be in the future.**

**If my future goal is glorious perfection
then I must strive towards
making that a part of my now life.**

Phil 3:16; “ But whatever be the point that we have already reached, let us persevere in the same course.” Weymouth N.T.

Phil 3:16; “however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.” N.A.S.

What have we **“attained?”** The context demands that our **“attaining”** is in the realm of **spiritual growth** in the **“high calling of God.”**

We have come so far in our knowledge and obedience to the will of God.

We need to continue in our spiritual growth

Ephes 4:1 “I, then, the prisoner for the Master's sake, **entreat you to live and act** as becomes those who have received the call that you have received.”

Phil 3:14; “I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.”

When we were born again into a new relationship with Jesus we were blessed with at least fifty spiritual blessings.

By the grace of God these blessings are what help to fuel our journey towards spiritual perfection.

Here are some examples: Sins forgiven, declared righteous, became a child of God, Holy Spirit indwelt, became family, citizen of heaven, given access to the throne of God, became a priest, object of God’s love, new creation, etc.

Phil 3:16; “ But whatever be the point that we have already reached, let us persevere in the same course.” Weymouth N.T.

Phil 3:16; “however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.” N.A.S.

Paul is **not condoning** the “**ignorant is bliss**” ideology (the idea that we are not responsible for areas of ignorance) but rather **commending** the Philippians for **attaining faith in Jesus Christ** and **encouraging them to continued spiritual growth.**

Those who are “perfect” “mature”
will certainly do so
knowing that **heaven is at stake.**

Phil 3:17; “ Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.”

Christians today, as in earlier days, need to recognize the binding authority of the examples set forth by the apostles.

Paul had told the Corinthian brethren, “... **the things which I write unto you, they are the commandment of the Lord.**” (I Cor 14:37;)

The apostles teaching was **inspired of God** and **given by direct revelation.** (Gal 1:11-12;)

1 John 4:6; “We are from God; whoever recognises God **listens to us;** anyone who is not from God **refuses to listen to us.**”

This is how we can distinguish **the spirit of truth** from **the spirit of falsehood.**

Phil 3:17; “ Brethren, join in following my example,
and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.”

Having direct revelation authorized these men
to **“command”** brethren to do things
“in the name of the Lord.” (2 Thess 3:6-7;)

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, **we give you
this command with the authority of our Lord Jesus
Christ:** Stay away from any Christian
who lives in idleness and doesn't follow
the tradition of hard work we gave you.

“For you know that you ought to follow our example.
We were never lazy when we were with you.”

Phil 3:17; “ Brethren, join in following my example,
and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.”

Paul could then say, “The things which you
both learned and received and heard and saw in me,
these things do: and the God of peace
shall be with you.” (Phil 4:9;)

Paul admonishes the Philippians to not only imitate
him but to also “mark them who so walk.”

To “**mark**” (**skopeo**) one is to “look at, to behold,
contemplate... consider, examine...”

The context of chapter 3 suggests that Paul is saying that
the Philippians, though suffering persecution, should **look
to Jesus**, Paul, and anyone who is continuing steadfastly
In the faith with the high prize of God as their goal.

Phil 3:18; “For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:”

The **“walk”** of faithful Christians is compared to Christ and the apostles.

Attaining our resurrection of the dead, the ultimate high prize of God, and the idea of a heavenly home is dependant upon one’s position our relationship with Jesus and acceptance of His truth.

When I **walk in truth, grow in truth, and speak truth** I am **“walking”** as God would have me.

Phil 3:18; “For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:”

**Unfortunately, “many” do not so walk. Apparently Paul had “often” spoke with the Philippians about those who did not represent the truth.
(reminds us of Acts 20:29-30;)**

“I know full well that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some of you will distort the truth in order to draw a following.”

Preaching in Paul’s day was filled with warnings to the faithful brethren in regards to false teachers and their work.

Phil 3:18; “For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:”

**Always pay attention to who you walk with.
Paul was a good example to follow.**

**1 Corinthians 11:1;
Be imitators of me,
in so far as I in turn am an imitator of Christ.**

**Who are we pointing our children too?
Who are you're hero's?
Whose walk are WE talking about in front of them?**

Phil 3:18; “For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:”



**I slept with
the secretary
last night!**

**That's another
business out of
business!**



The wrong god



Phil 3:18; “For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:”

DOES YOUR
TALK
MATCH YOUR
WALK



PEOPLE WITH
GOOD INTENTIONS
MAKE PROMISES
BUT PEOPLE WITH
GOOD CHARACTER
KEEP THEM.

In the end,
it's not the talk
but the walk
that matters.

Phil 3:18; “For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:”



“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.”

Galatians 5:24;

“Don't act like people of this world. Instead, be changed inside by letting your mind be made new again. Then you can determine what is good, pleasing, and perfect, what God wants.” Rom 12:2;

Change our way of thinking. Col 3:1-4;

Phil 3:18; “For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:”

The book of Philippians has indicated that **various doctrines** had **threatened the unity** of the Philippian congregation (Phil 1:9-11, 27, 2:2-3;) and that those who stood opposed to these false teachers were being persecuted. (Phil 1:29; 3:10;)

False teachers whose teaching and manner of life will never see them or their followers into heaven are depicted as, **“enemies of the cross of Christ:”**

The cross of Christ **represents** the blood of Christ that was spilled out **for the remission of man’s sins.** (Col 1:19-22; Heb 9:22;)

Phil 3:18; “For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:”

Any teaching that **does not represent truth** has **no power to forgive sins**. When one teaches a doctrine that has **no power** to forgive sins its object is apparent.

That individual is **causing factions** and **seeking their own glory and power** in life. (Phil 2:3;)

“**Don't** be selfish; **don't** live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.”

Phil 3:19; “Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and all they think about is this life here on earth.”

When one teaches a doctrine that **does not represent truth** he **“has not God,”** (2 John 9;) They represent the spirit of the **“sons of disobedience.”** (Eph 2:2;) or **“son of perdition”** **“sets himself forth as God”** in that he makes up **his own doctrines.** (2 Thess 2:3-4;)

Four character traits of “the enemies of the cross” are given

First, the end of all things for the “enemies of the cross of Christ” is “perdition” (apoleia) = “destruction.” “Eternal ruin” (Moulton 45). “Eternal destruction as punishment for the wicked.”

Phil 3:19; “Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and all they think about is this life here on earth.”

Note that the **life** of the **enemies of the cross**, those men and women who are called “**adversaries**” at Phil 1:28; leads to **eternal spiritual death**.

While the **life** of the **faithful child of God** who “**gains Christ and is found in Him**” (3:8-9;) is the “**prize**” of **eternal bliss in heaven**. (Phil 3:14;)

Phil 3:19; “Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and all they think about is this life here on earth.”

Secondly, the “enemies of the cross” set forth the “belly” as their god. This idea may be difficult to interpret were it not for Paul’s similar remarks to the Romans.

Paul said, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them that are causing divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which you learned: and turn away from them.

**“For they that are such serve not our Lord Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the hearts of the innocent”
(Rom. 16:17-18;)**

Phil 3:19; “Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and all they think about is this life here on earth.”

Clearly to **serve the belly as god** are those who **cause divisions** and brethren to stumble from truth with their false doctrines.

False teachers are under consideration here.

“With smooth speech they gain followers to their evil ways.”

These brethren are factious and **pose a threat to the unity of the body of Christ** because they seek to be followed at the expense of truth.

Those who follow them are simple minded and feed the egos of the erring teachers. (Phil 2:3;) Fleshly wisdom governs these individuals as opposed to truth. (Col 2:18;)

Phil 3:19; “Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and all they think about is this life here on earth.”

Thirdly, the “enemies of the cross” “glory in their shame.”

The word “glory” was used at Phil 3:3; to indicate an area that one places their trust or confidence.

Rather than trusting in God’s word, soul saving truth these teachers put their trust in shameful things.

Things which are shameful are things that **do not represent godly living and truth.** (2 Cor 4:2; Eph 5:12;)

Again, **fleshly wisdom** (a “righteousness of mine own,” Phil 3:9; seems to be set in contrast to “the Excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus.” (Phil 3:8;)

Phil 3:19; “Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and all they think about is this life here on earth.”

Fourthly, the “enemies of the cross” “mind earthly things.” To “mind” (*phroneo*) = “to think, to have understanding, to be sage, wise, prudent... to be minded in a certain way, take heed to a thing”

Interestingly, **Paul states, “Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth.”** (Col 3:2;)

The things of the “earth” are defined at Col 3:5ff;

False teachers are looking more to the things of this world and how they can have earthly benefits, such as **gaining a following, rather than holding to truth.**

Phil 3:20; “ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ,”

Remember that true perfection awaits us in glorification after our resurrection.

Before we explore these verses 20-21, What triggered Paul’s topic of Christian perfectionism in the first place.

Answer: Paul’s reference to “his attaining to the resurrection from among the dead” in verse 11 seems to be the trigger that launched his topic.

Now he concludes this section with a return to the subject of heaven which is where our experience will match the reality of absolute perfection.



Phil 3:20; “ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ,”

The word **“heaven”** is finally used and is **in connection** with **“attaining the resurrection from the Dead,”** (3:11;) being **“made perfect,”** (3:12;) and the **“prize of the high calling of God.”** (3:14;)

True **citizens of the kingdom of God, His church, His Family** will represent **truth** in all its purity.

(Eph 2:19ff; Col 1:13; I Thess 2:12;)

and finally reach their **goal** of the eternal kingdom of God; i.e., **heaven.**

Until Christ comes again; however, **the faithful continue to “wait”** in a faithful manner all the while pressing along **through** the trials and sufferings of this earth. (see Isaiah on **“waiting on the Lord”**)
(I Thess 4:13-18;)

Phil 3:20; “ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ,”

**We need to understand and show
we know where we are walking to.**

Philippi



**“You too are citizens of a city you haven’t seen yet,
talk like heaven people, dress like heaven people,
obey the laws of heaven, live the culture of heaven.”**

Philippians 3:20

If you believe that Jesus is coming back.

Jesus is
coming
back

We reserve
the right to
refuse service
to anybody

I don't want to be a.....

I don't want to be.....

I don't want to be.....

I don't want to be.....

I don't want to be a.....

I don't want to be a.....

racist

Immoral

Gossip

Drunkard

Workaholic

Materialistic

Phil 3:20; “ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ,”

We need to try to keep your desk clean if we really believe He’s coming back.

1 John 3:2-3;



“Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, and we can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And **all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.”**

Phil 3:21; “He will take these weak mortal bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer everything, everywhere.”

When the faithful “**attain unto the resurrection of the dead,**” (3:11;) Christ “**shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation.**”

To “**fashion anew**” (metaschematizo) = “**to change the form of a person or thing.**”

Apparently when Christ comes again to **bring home the saints into the glories of heaven,** He will change the form of the “**body of our humiliation.**”

This **body of humiliation** is an **earthy body** that is **subject to death and decay.** (I Cor 15:42-54;)

Phil 3:21; “He will take these weak mortal bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer everything, everywhere.”

The change that shall take place in the resurrected body is that it will go from a state of **corruption and mortality** to **in corruption and immortality.**

(I Cor 15:53;)

At this point, our bodies will be like that of Christ’s glorious state. (I John 3:2;)

This metamorphosis of our resurrected bodies will occur “according to the working whereby He is able even to subject all things unto himself.”

As Christ will in the end have all things, including death, in subjection to Him even so He shall with power resurrect the dead and change their bodies.

SYNOPSIS OF CHAPTER 3

Factions and **congregational divisions** threatened the faithful in Philippi due to the work of men who are guided by fleshly wisdom. (Phil 1:27-28; 2:3; 3:2, 17-19;)

Those who **stood upon the principles of truth** in Jesus Christ were **“allowed”** to suffer on behalf of Christ. (Phil 1:29;)

Paul encourages the brethren to exercise the **“mind of Christ”** during these sufferings that all will be well. (Phil 2:5;)

No **doctrine of the “flesh”** (Phil 3:3;) or the seeking of a **“righteousness of mine own.”** (Phil 3:9;) would ever remove one sin, save one soul, or cause one to be **“found in Christ.”** (Phil 3:9;) when Jesus comes again to fashion anew our earthly bodies to a heavenly state. (Phil 3:21;)

Those who **“mind earthly things”** (Phil 3:19;) are a threat to the unity and eternity of the members of the church. (Phil 3:17-19;)

Paul’s admonition is to thereby **warn** the Philippians **against following such teachers** of fleshly wisdom. (Phil 3:2, 18;)

Secondly, Paul encourages the faithful to continue to give effort in knowing, keeping, and perfecting oneself in the purity of truth. (Phil 3:8-16;)

There will be times of great suffering. (Phil 3:10;) However, as I continue to press forward with heaven in my sight I can certainly overcome any such obstacles. (Rom 8:18;)

Suffering is **not only “allowed”** (Phil 1:29;) but the Christian’s **“appointment.”** (I Thess 3:12;) and **guarantee** of entrance into heaven. (Acts 14:22; 2 Tim 3:12;)

Saints have **Christ**, (Phil 2:1-5;) the **apostles**, (Phil 2:16-18; 3:17;) and other **faithful Christians**, (Phil 3:17;) **as examples** to look to in times of persecution.

**Study on the
Book of Philippians
3:12-21;**

**Prepared by
Graeme Morrison**

graemestudy@gmail.com

<https://www.graemebibleresources.com>

Next in the series:- Phil 4:1-11;