

Philippians

Lesson #11, Chapter 3:1-7

Prepare your heart to study God's Word by asking Him for His help and insight, confessing any known sin, and thanking Him for the treasure of the Scriptures that guide, sustain, and teach you.

1. Paul has given instruction and encouragement to the Philippians from the moment he began his letter to them. To remind yourself of the ground Paul has covered, peruse Philippians 1:1-2:30 and choose any 5 of his previous commands, warnings, or encouragements and list them here. (I limited the selection to 5 so it wouldn't feel too overwhelming, but if you prefer to list them all, please do!)
2. The Greek word for *finally* in Philippians 3:1 has been translated various ways, depending on its context. Here in verse 1, it would be better translated *furthermore* or *henceforth*, which then provides a bridge between all Paul has previously instructed and the new information he now gives. What does Paul command the Philippians in chapter 3 verse 1?
3. Eager Beaver: Paul repeatedly uses the word *rejoice* in different ways in the book of Philippians. Review how he uses the word *rejoice* or *joy* and who it's directed toward from Philippians 1:18; 2:17, 18, 28; 3:1; 4:4, 10.
4. Why would Paul desire the Philippians to find joy in the Lord (3:1), based upon what you know of the Philippians' circumstances?
5. We too are commanded to *rejoice in the Lord*, no matter what our situation. In fact, the more distressing our circumstances, the greater need for us to obey this command (Philippians 3:1). Consider *why* you should rejoice in the Lord in all things and at all times.

- a. Next, consider some of the specifics about the Lord and your salvation that give you joy. Start with 5 items, though feel free to continue if you have more!

 - b. How can you incorporate *more* rejoicing in the Lord, especially when you are in distress?

 - c. Finally, think about what attitudes or actions on your part might hinder your rejoicing in the Lord. What are some ways you can grow more aware of these temptations?
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6. While the Philippians rejoice in the Lord, what does Paul intend to do for them and why (verse 1)?

 7. What kinds of things do we tend to remind people about? For what purpose?

 8. What do you learn about this valuable discipleship tool in Romans 15:14-15; Hebrews 5:11-12; 2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1-2?

 9. What warning does Paul give the Philippians in verse 2? What do you learn about this group from the description (verse 2)?

10. The following passages from Galatians 2:3-4; 5:1-12; and 6:12-15 help us see how dangerous it was to be influenced by this group. What do you learn? What was at stake for the Philippians, if they were persuaded by this group?

11. What is the difference between the *false* circumcision and *true* circumcision according to Philippians 3:3? See also Romans 2:25-29; Galatians 6:12-15; Colossians 2:8-12.

12. What does it mean to *worship in the Spirit of God*? See Deuteronomy 30:6; John 4:23-24; Romans 7:6.

13. How can you *glory in Christ Jesus*? See Psalm 105:3; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Philippians 3:7-9.

14. What does it mean to *put no confidence in the flesh*? See Proverbs 3:5-7; Galatians 3:3; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 3:4-11; Hebrews 13:9.

15. What does it look like *in the day to day of life* to worship in the Spirit, glory in Christ, and put no confidence in your own works? How can you remind yourself of these important attitudes?

16. Paul continues to dismantle the false teaching hurting the church. After his statement that he puts no confidence in the flesh in verse 3, what does Paul reveal in Philippians 3:4-6?

- a. Why does he introduce this information from Philippians 3:4-6?
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17. Consider what you know about each of the items Paul lists in Philippians 3:4-6 that might tempt him to put his confidence in them. See Genesis 17:14; Acts 26:4-5; Romans 10:2-5; 11:1; 2 Corinthians 11:22-30; Galatians 1:13-14.

 18. What's a stake if we put "confidence in the flesh?" See Matthew 16:24-26; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17, 21; Galatians 2:15-16, 21; Philippians 3:8-11; Hebrews 11:24-26.

 19. In Philippians 3:7 Paul leverages his exhortations to a new level. What does he say and what does it encompass?

 20. What are some of the things that are *gain* to you in your life?
 - a. How do your "gains" lure you away from relying on Christ's work and righteousness?

 - b. What's the answer for not taking comfort in your "gains?"

21. Paul often talks about doing things for *the sake of Christ*. What are some of the things Paul does for the sake of Christ? See Romans 9:3; 1 Corinthians 4:10; 8:9-13; 2 Corinthians 4:5; 12:10; Ephesians 3:1.
22. How does framing your life around doing all *for the sake of Christ* change how you do things, how you think about them, and how you're motivated?

"I'll Rest in Christ"

~Isaac Watts and David Ward

No more, my God, I boast no more
Of all the deeds that I have done;
I leave the hopes I held before
To trust the merits of Your Son.

*So I'll come to You and rest
From my so-called righteousness.
I will cease my striving and put my hope in Jesus.
Trusting in His work for me.
I'll rest in Christ.*

By sov'reign love I bear His name,
What was my gain I count my loss.
My former pride I call my shame
And nail my glory to His cross.

The finest works of my own hands
Dare not appear before Your throne:
But faith can meet Your law's demands
For Jesus' deeds are now my own.