

Be all God designed you to Be

Philippians 3:1-21

Philippians 3

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Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. 2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God[b] and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh — 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. **18** For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. **19** Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. **20** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Focus on his past

(Verses 4-7)

- The Vanity of Earthly Achievements

Earthly credentials

- People of Israel, Benjamite, circumcised on 8th day

Religious credentials

- Pharisee, persecutor of the church

Legal credentials

- according to keeping the law – blameless –

All counted as loss

Focus on His Passion (Verses 8-11)

- The Surpassing Worth of Knowing Christ**
- Willing to let go of everything he had or had accomplished –**
- Treat it as rubbish**

His Goal - To Know Christ

To know Christ is not to be skilled in theoretical or theological knowledge. It is to know Him with such intimacy that in the end we are unified with Him as we are with those whom we love on earth.

To be one with Him

Righteousness by faith

The Power of His resurrection

The Pain of His sufferings

The Pinnacle of His death

Focus on His Plan (Verses 12-16)
a life with Him
Dissatisfied Devotion

Honest evaluation – *I am not there*
(I may never see it)

Clear vision - **To be what He planned me to be**
(what He laid hold of me for)

Determined Direction

Singleness of heart – one thing I do

Forgetting what lies behind – victories, defeats- Forgetting – “not failing to remember” but no longer be bound Failures and victories both can hinder

Straining forward – The picture of a runner stretching to cross the finish line

Disciplined Drive

Press toward the goal – picture of a runner leaning forward to cross the finish line

Eyes on the prize - upward call in Christ

Set your heart on Jesus - Attitude

Hold on to the progress you have already made

Focus on his prize – (Verses 17-21)

The Upward Call is the goal

Live as aliens on earth

–Our citizenship is in heaven

Live in expectancy

– Christ is coming with all power

**The prize is not just heaven but a daily walk
with Christ – fellowship with Him.**

