

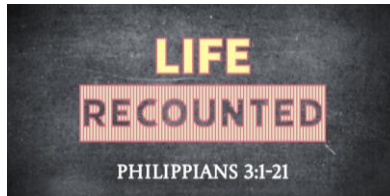
Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Philippians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Philippians 3:1-21 – Reassessing what we value and what matters most

Today's Message:

“Life Recounted”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we studied two faithful servants – Timothy and Epaphroditus – and learned how God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things and different callings and faithfulness to build His church. Today, we will be challenged to reassess what we value and what matters most in our lives. When Jesus Christ changes our VALUES, we learn to recount life differently – what once mattered becomes loss and knowing Him becomes our greatest GAIN. Our past, our present, our pursuits, our future... must all be reevaluated in light of the clear teaching of the word of God. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

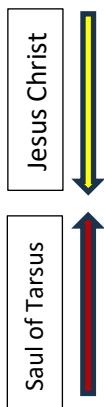
❖ The Text Philippians 3:1-21

A. Recounting the Past – What I once valued (3:1-6)

1. Religious heritage, achievements, and self righteousness once DEFINED Paul.

- **Philippians 3:2** – Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.
- **Philippians 3:3** – For we are THE CIRCUMCISION which worship God in the spirit...
- **Philippians 3:4** – ... If any other man thinketh... he might trust in the flesh, I more:

- **Philippians 3:4-5** – Circumcised the eighth day,
of the stock of Israel,
of the tribe of Benjamin,
an Hebrew of the Hebrews;
as touching the law, a Pharisee;
Concerning zeal, persecuting the church:
touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.



The Turning Point
As Paul was “going up”
in this world, he met
a man “coming down”
– Jesus Christ the Lord!

Philippians 3:3
... and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and
have NO CONFIDENCE in the flesh.

Old Testament Example: King Saul – 1 Samuel 9-15

- ✓ He was tall, strong, outwardly impressive, but trusted in HIMSELF more than God.

Personal Application

You must **beware** of trusting in you, in your flesh, good works, or religion instead of Christ.

B. Recounting the Present – What I now value (3:7-11)

2. After salvation, Paul realized everything else is loss compared to KNOWING Christ.

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.”

*What a thought! Paul was “going up” in this world and met the Lord of glory coming down to men!
Talk about a complete reversal in life and thinking! Amen. Amen. What happened to you on that day?*

Hebrews 11:26

Esteeming the reproach of Christ **greater riches** than the **treasures** in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

- **Philippians 3:8** – Yea doubtless, and I **COUNT all things but loss** for the EXCELLENCY of the **knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and DO COUNT them but dung, THAT I MAY WIN CHRIST.
- **Philippians 3:9** – And be found **IN HIM...** but that which is through the faith of Christ...
- **Philippians 3:10** – That I **MAY KNOW HIM**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death:

Old Testament Example: Moses – Exodus 2-3; Hebrews 11:24-26

- ✓ He esteemed the reproach of Christ **greater riches** than the **TREASURES** of Egypt.

Personal Application

Following Christ may cost you comfort, reputation, earthly gain, but the value of knowing Him surpasses all! *What has it cost you? Integrity over promotion? Purity over pleasure?*

C. Recounting the Pursuit – What I strive for (3:12-16)

3. Paul was not striving for perfection but pressing **FORWARD** toward Christ-likeness.

- **Philippians 3:12** – Not as though I had already attained... perfect: **but I follow after...**
- **Philippians 3:13** – Brethren, I COUNT not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND, and REACHING FORTH UNTO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEFORE,**
- **Philippians 3:14** – I **press toward the mark...** the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
- **Philippians 3:15-16** – Let us **THEREFORE...** be **thus minded...** let us **walk...** let us **mind...**

Old Testament Example: Joshua & Caleb – Numbers 13-14

- ✓ Unlike the others, they kept pressing forward toward God's **PROMISE** by faith.

Personal Application

The Holy Spirit leads us FORWARD – not backward. You cannot live in the past! Press on in prayer, the Bible, obedience, service. Keep pursuing Christ even after failures and setbacks.

D. Recounting the Future – What I anticipate and hope for (3:17-21)

4. Paul was **HEAVENLY** minded and **looking for** the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ!

- **Philippians 3:18** – (For many walk...told you... **WEeping...enemies of the cross of Christ:**
- **Philippians 3:19** – Whose end is destruction... belly... shame, **who mind earthly things.)**
- **Philippians 3:20-21** – For **our conversation is IN HEAVEN;** from whence also **WE LOOK...**

Old Testament Example: Abraham – Genesis 12; Hebrews 11:9-10, 15-16

- ✓ He lived in tents, looking for a heavenly city whose builder and maker is God.

Personal Application

We live differently when our eyes are on heaven. Be less earthly minded, more heavenly minded; less materialism, more generosity; less fear, more faith. What is your life like?

Hebrews 11:16

But now they desire a better country, that is, **an heavenly:** wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour...”

God has helped us to recount our life His way – quit your confidence in the flesh, treasure Jesus Christ above all, keep pressing forward toward Him, and live with heaven and Jesus Christ in view. How then ought you to live differently? What is God telling you to do? Obey Him.