



A Spiritual Joy

Sunday, August 23, 2026 | Tommy & TJ Duke
First Baptist Church of Garden City

“Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.” – Philippians 3:1

**THE THIRD CHAPTER OF PAUL’S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH SHOWS
THAT I CAN EMBRACE JOY WHEN I...**

1) AVOID _____ TOWARD _____.

“Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!” – Philippians 3:2-4

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” – Ephesians 2:8-9

2) AVOID _____ TOWARD _____.

“For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth.” – Philippians 3:18-19

“Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God’s grace.” – Romans 6:12-14

3) _____ TOWARD _____.

"I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!"

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us." – Philippians 3:7-14

4) _____ TOWARD _____.

Memory Verse:

"But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control."
– Philippians 3:20-21

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO:

- ☐ Memorize Philippians 3:20-21.
- ☐ Leave the past in the past and press forward in Christ.
- ☐ Make it a point to remember daily that I am a citizen of heaven.
- ☐ Volunteer to impact students at Groves and Mercer schools:
___ Football Meal (September) ___ Donate Backpacks (August)

* Join us next Sunday, August 30, at 11:00am, as we wrap up our "Embracing Joy" teaching series with the message, "A Secure Joy." Step out in faith and invite a friend, family member, co-worker, or classmate to attend with you!



Bible verses are from the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise noted.

Scan the QR Code on the left to connect with FBC Garden City on the YouVersion Bible app.

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