

No more Chains

Philippians 3:10-21

- Paul began this chapter by saying “**rejoice in the Lord**” not in circumstances, but in our walk and life in Jesus, he is in prison under the threat of death, not knowing if the sentence will be handed down by Caesar to let him go or take his life, and under this kind of uncertainty Paul tells us the church to have inward peace in the midst of outward turmoil. So to drive this point home Paul tells this Philippian church that with all his worldly credentials and accomplishments, that most people would glory in, if you add them all together they wouldn’t amount to a single thing, for it was all “**rubbish**” “**dung**” offensive, in comparison to the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

V10-21

- **V10-11** after disowning his own righteousness in order to receive the righteousness that is found in Christ, Paul now explains his experience of what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus. **V10** says out of the death of self came Life, fellowship and power, from Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection. Before through acts of obedience, animal sacrifices, Piety, was all man could do to try and please God, but with Jesus we now have gained a practical day to day intimate acquaintance that we don’t just seek to Please Him but to become more like Him, and in the process we get to **know His mind, His will**, and to **learn and teach His ways**.
- **V11** this allows us to practically live out the crucified life, as the old man is put to death and the new man is raised up by God’s Spirit, and then lived out through obedience and sacrifice. For without Christ man cannot die to sin, self and the world, it will control our every thought, motive, and desire, and instead of looking out for the needs of others we’ll only be concerned about how a given situation affects me and my agenda. The unsaved, unregenerate mind- heart cannot comprehend this, it’s only after a man-woman has been born again that it’ll make sense.
- **V12-14** Paul illustrates for us the past of being Christ-like, and it starts out with an honest assessment of self > “**not that I have already attained**” translation: I am not perfect. This is so important because the older you become **in Christ**, and the more you are being used **for Christ**, we have a tendency to wrongly think that I am still a big deal, even though I owe all things **to Christ**. Paul says even after you’ve achieved goals or gained accolades there is still much to learn and leaps and bounds for you to grow > “as you have still not been perfected”.
- Which is why we “**press on**” so that we can “**lay hold**” which means to apprehend or capture, the things Christ has for you and I, and the very reason why we were “**Captured**” by Him > **Acts 9:6**- when Paul was on his way to Damascus to persecute believers and the Lord met him on the road and knocked him to the ground, and began to speak to him and he answers “**Lord what would you have me to do**” at that moment Paul was “**apprehended, captured by Jesus**”

- **V13** in knowing this Paul says he continues to self evaluate that he doesn't become puffed up in how God's using him or complacent in what's he's done, but he continues to press on knowing that until the Lord takes him to glory that there is still work to do on earth, and to do that he constantly kept his eye on the "**upward call of God**". If heaven is not at the forefront of everything were doing but in the rear, then we run the risk of letting the flesh be the driving force of whatever I'm going after, and instead of the goal being pleasing Christ, its satisfying self.
- **V15-16** Paul knows that there will be some who disagree with what he's saying realizing that it takes a certain spiritual maturity to throw off what you held dear in the past and to humble yourself so that God can lift you up, as everyone just is not going to want to do that because it is painful to our pride and self assuredness. But Paul trusted that God would deal with our minds, hearts and ultimately our attitudes, in order to bring us into a spiritual unity that allows people from all different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences to work together for the common goal of lifting up the name the Jesus, that's why it's always amazing to hear people's testimonies.
- **V17** Paul like Jesus never asked the body to do anything that he didn't do or model for the church first > **1Cor 11:1**- follow my example, you will have plenty of examples of people saying and doing the wrong thing, just as we see today. You start talking about the goodness of Jesus and inevitably somebody is going to bring up a bad example of some pastor or professing Christian and how they said one thing but did another, remember it's not your or my job to defend them but to point people back to the right examples found in scriptures.
- Paul says point people to my example, how I am in prison and yet still expressing my joy and hope in Christ Jesus, and others who are doing what's right follow the path that their taking and don't veer off and get sidetracked by curiosity or persuasive words onto unproven roads. **V18-19** it's interesting that in a letter filled with joy we also find Paul "**weeping**", over the thought that there will be many who will be encouraging the church to live a life of **self indulgence** and not a life of **self denial**, and Paul has strong words for them calling them "**enemies of the cross**".
- He says **3** things that are unmistakable about them > **1. Their god is their belly**- they live for fleshly pleasures of the mind and body, **2. They live for their own glory**- they live to make a name for themselves not the Lord, **3. They mind earthly things**- they live for the temporal and not the spiritual. Their attitude was the same as the rich fool in **Lk 12:16-21**- who desired self enrichment more than he wanted God glorification, and everything he held dear he lost.
- **V20-21** although we live on this earth we still residents of heaven > **Heb 11:8-10** Abraham saw himself as a stranger just passing through as he knew his final destination was in glory. **Jn 9:4**- says "**while there is still day we must work the work that God has given to us**". **V21** in the end when we see Jesus we shall be like Him > **1Jn 3:2**, and not only will our bodies be changed but everything will be put back to order as everything from nature, climate, smog, will be made right