



“Life Goals”
Philippians 3:1-7
The Joy of Unity: The Book of Philippians

Introduction:

Philippians 3:1-7 “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you. Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”

Life Goal #1 - “I Want to Live a Life of Praise and Rejoicing”

Philippians 3:1 “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.”

A. Praise and rejoicing is a lifestyle

Psalm 119:164 “Seven times a day I praise You...”

Philippians 3:1 “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me...”

B. Praise and rejoicing is a safeguard

Hebrews 6:19 “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast...”

Proverbs 18:10 “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe.”

Life Goal #2 – “I Want to Live a Life of Caution”

Philippians 3:2 “Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision.” cf. Rev. 22:15

Warning #1: Beware of the Grace-Crushing Legalists

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Mark 8:15 “Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees...”

Warning #2: Beware of Loose-Living Evil Workers

1 Corinthians 10:12 “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.”

Warning #3: Beware of the Phony Christians (The False Circumcision)

Mark 12:38 “Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the marketplaces...”

Life Goal #3 – “I Want to Live a Sincere Life of Worship”

Philippians 3:3 “...for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh...”

- **True Believers’ Declaration #1: We “are the true circumcision...” (Phil. 3:3)**
- **True Believers’ Declaration #2: We “worship in the Spirit God” (Phil. 3:3) cf. John 4:23-24**
- **True Believers’ Declaration #3: We “glory in Christ Jesus...” (Phil. 3:3) cf. Rom. 15:17; Gal. 6:14; 2 Cor. 10:17**
- **True Believers’ Declaration #4: We “put no confidence in the flesh...” (Phil. 3:3)**

Life Goal #4 – “I Want to Live a Life of Remembrance and Reflection”

Philippians 1:6 “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

The Timeline of Paul’s Spiritual Journey

Philippians 3:4-6 “...although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.”

- **He was “circumcised the eighth day...” (Philippians 3:5)**
cf. Acts 22:3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city (i.e. Jerusalem), educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers...”
- **He was “of the nation of Israel...” (Philippians 3:5)**
- **He was “of the tribe of Benjamin...” (Philippians 3:5)**
- **He was “a Hebrew of Hebrews...” (Philippians 3:5)**
- **He was “as to the Law, a Pharisee...” (Philippians 3:5)**
Acts 23:6 “Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees...”
Acts 26:5 “...they have known about me for a long time...I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.”
- **He was “as to zeal, a persecutor of the church...” (Philippians 3:6)**
Acts 8:3 “...Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging men and women, he would put them in prison.”
Acts 9:1 “...breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord...”
- **He was “as to the righteousness, which is in the Law, found blameless.”**
Blameless in the eyes of his fellow Jews but not blameless in the eyes of God.
Saul’s Conversion Story (Acts 9)

Life Goal #5 – “I Want to Live a Life of Humility”

Philippians 3:7 “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”

Paul’s Spiritual Profit and Loss Statement

- **The Losses: All of His Human Achievements**
Philippians 3:7 “...whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”
1 Corinthians 4:13 “...we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.”
- **The Gains: His Salvation by Grace Alone**
Philippians 3:8-14 “More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Conclusion: What are your life goals?

- Ecclesiastes 2:11 “Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.”
- Isaiah 48:17 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, “I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go.”
- Matthew 8:36 “What does it profit a man to gain the world and forfeit his soul?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

1. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
2. As an adult, what are your life goals as they relate to • your family? • your career? • your spiritual life?
3. What does a life of praise and worship mean to you?
4. Briefly describe your spiritual history. Were there any spiritual heroes in your family?
5. In what practical ways do you apply the following verse? Philippians 3:7 “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”
6. Go through these names of God in the Old Testament and circle the one that gives you the most sense of safety and security.

Elohim - The Strong and Faithful One (Translated: God)

El Elyon - God Most High - The Strong One Who Is Higher Than Any

El Roi - The god Who Sees - The Strong One Who Sees

El Shaddai - God Almighty - The Strong One Who Gives Blessing

El Olam - The Everlasting God - The Strong One Who Never Changes and Always Keeps His Promises

Yahweh (Jehovah) - The Self-existent One (Translated: LORD or GOD)

Jehovah Jireh - The Lord Will Provide - The Personal One Who Provides All I need for Life and Godliness

Jehovah Nissi - The Lord is My Banner/My Standard/My Ensign - The Personal One Who is My Rallying Point

Jehovah Shalom - The Lord is Peace - The Personal One Who Brings Me Fulfillment and Wholeness in My Relationship to God, Myself and Others

Jehovah Sabaoth - The Lord of Hosts - The Personal One Who is On His Throne

Jehovah Tsidkenu - The Lord our Righteousness - The Personal One Who is Righteous

Jehovah Shammah - The Lord is There - The Personal One Who is Always There and Accessible

Jehovah Rapha - The Lord Heals - The Personal One Who Heals Our Wounds and Hurts

Jehovah Maccaddshcem - The Lord Our Sanctifier - The Personal One Who Continually Sets Us Apart

Jehovah Nakeh - The Lord Who Smites - The Personal One Who Fights

Jehovah Raah - The Lord, My Shepherd - The Personal One Who is My Shepherd

Adonai - The Sovereign Master or Lord (Translated: Lord)