

Philippians 3

Light

I. All for Christ

1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.

- True Pastors "finally": Paul is far from done

...have exceeding joy in the Lord.

1b...For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.

**I know I said this before but don't forget this!
Rejoice in the Lord**

2 Chronicles King 17:6 [King Jehoshaphat's] heart took delight in the ways of the Lord

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Here's something I know you will forget...Rejoice in the Lord

- **First**, Remember to Rejoice in the Lord
- **Second**, don't ever forget you are in a non-stop battle

2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

Beware of Religious Jews

- **Mutilation:** Those who would say circumcision is required for Salvation

"By a pun, he mockingly calls it a mere cutting, kata-tome, i.e. mutilation of the body on a par with pagan practices forbidden in Leviticus 21:5. [Martin]

- **Circumcision:** Sign given to OT Jews to be set apart/cut off from the flesh
 1. Outward sign of inward change as Baptism
 2. Never saved or made righteous
 3. Dogs, Evil Workers, mutilation constantly badgered new believers...

"You must be circumcised to be saved!"

Galatians 5:12 I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

- Circumcision was an outward sign you belonged to God
- Jesus changing our lives from the inside out is now the sign

Galatians 6:15 ...in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

Beware of those surround you, who work you trying to steal your freedom

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have **no** confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh.

- **Q. Who are the true people of God?**
- **A. Those that truly have power over sin...**

1. Those who worship in the Spirit
2. Those who rejoice in Jesus Christ
3. **Those who put NO confidence in the flesh** [my achievements]

4b...If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh [achievements], **I more so:** 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

- **Boasting in the Flesh:** If anyone could be saved by works **it's me...**

1. I was circumcised on eighth day as commanded in OT
2. I am the stock of Israel: From Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
3. I am of the Tribe of Benjamin
4. I am a Hebrew of Hebrew's: No interested in Greek culture as some
5. I was a Pharisee...a good one
6. I Persecuted what I thought was not of God with gusto

Was I righteous concerning keeping the Law? Blameless

- BGG: They all would say I was a Big God Guy

In summary, if anyone could lay claim to pleasing God by law-keeping and the works of the flesh, it was Paul. He was far more qualified than his legalizing opponents were to make such a claim. [Guzic]

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

I don't get that tingly feeling anymore from boasting about me

I count it all as less than nothing in gain Jesus

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things

All accomplishments without Christ I count as less than nothing
Compared to greatness of knowing God

- When I came to know Jesus suffered loss...

1. Loss of pride
2. Loss of vanity

3. Loss of empty pursuits. Dead ends.

8b...[I] count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him...

- **Rubbish:** Lit. Dung. Excrement of animals, rubbish, dregs
- **Gain Christ:** Lit. *That I may win Christ*

9b... not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith...

- Righteousness having nothing to do with the Law
- Righteousness totally apart from the Law

God not looking at you as He holds the Law in His hand
Looking at Christ as He holds you by the hand

Romans 3:20 ...by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now **the righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

"[Paul] disowns his own righteousness as eagerly as other men disown their sins, and he highly esteems the righteousness which Christ has wrought out for us, which becomes ours by faith." [Spurgeon]

10 [I want to be found in Christ] that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Found in Christ and in His righteousness...

- **That I may know Him**
 1. God
 2. Word
 3. Savior
 4. Redeemer
 5. Healer
 6. Comforter
- **That I may know the power of His resurrection**
 1. To live abundant victorious life
 2. Leaving the cross and walking in resurrection power
 3. Same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in believers

Romans 8:11 ...if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- **That I may have fellowship in His sufferings**

Romans 8:17...if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together

- **That I may be conformed to His death**

1. Dying to self and living for God...One day the struggle will be over

I want to attain to the resurrection from the dead

That I may finally arrive at the place I'm going. Complete. Whole. With Jesus

SUMMARY All for Christ: Working out our own Salvation for time...

This is just a rest stop [JRC Jr.]

My desire is to *attain* to the resurrection from the dead

- **Attain:** gr. *kä-tän-tä'-ō*

I want to finally arrive at my destination. Complete. Whole. With Jesus

II. Pressing Toward the Goal

12 Not that I have **already attained**, or am already perfected

- **Attained:** *läm-bä'-nō*: To Receive [Different word] not arrive but receive
- **Perfected:** *te-lā-o'-ō*. To be "Made Complete"

3:10-12 Paraphrase: I want to intimately know Jesus by sharing in His suffering; even His death, that I may *arrive* and be like Him in the resurrection. I am not fully like Him yet. My mind is being transformed by His Word and I am growing in His love for other but I look forward to *receiving* the rest of what He promises to make me *complete* and ready for heaven and eternity...**my soul is redeemed now but my physical body is still waiting**

Romans 8:23... we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

I have not arrived. I am not yet perfected

...but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Jesus chose to be a citizen of Heaven and to work that process out on earth

- **Press on to lay hold:** Running toward the prize to win not giving up!

1 Corinthians 9:24 ... those who run in a race all run, but one receives the **prize**? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate [self-controlled] in all things...to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore **I run thus: not with uncertainty**. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection...

Live to Win

- I don't run this race of life like a mad man
 1. I Run to win an eternal reward
 2. I Fight to win an eternal battle...Always landing my punches

I discipline my physical desires bringing them into subjection to the Spiritual

1 Timothy 4:8 ...bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

- **Spiritual Discipline:**

1. Praise not complain
2. Fill me with your Spirit
3. Strength and Wisdom
4. Your will not mine...**make this day count for eternity!**

Psalms 90:12 [Lord] teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Ephesians 5:15 ...walk circumspectly, **not as fools but as wise**, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead...

I am not perfect but I refuse to let my failures even slow me down

- Secret in pressing: Not getting "caught up in the weeds"
 1. **I refuse to focus** on past failures: If God doesn't why should I
 2. **I work to focus** [reach forward] to grab what God has for me

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Press toward the goal line/prize: Eyes fixed on the prize

...the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The eagle's motto is, "Higher, Higher!" Let it be your motto too. Many of God's people do not believe that He can make them what He means to make them, or, at least, they act as if they did not believe that he can. They are not, apparently, conscious of what their privileges really are, and are living far below where they might live in the happy enjoyment of peace and power and usefulness. May God help us, by his gracious Spirit, to know all of Christ that we can know, and to be as much like Christ as we can be. [Spurgeon]

God has called us all to glorify Him. Q. How has God called you to glorify Him?

- Dads, Moms, Grandparents, Singles, Teens, Students, Workers, Bosses, Retirees
 1. v12 Press on/Lay hold of
 2. v13 Forget the past failures/press forward to victory
 3. v14 Press toward the goal for the prize...

Privilege of being a citizen of Heaven and the Process of working that out on earth

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind...

- **Therefore:** If you consider yourself mature...

Have an Eternal *not* Earthly perspective for your life

...and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

- Leaders must trust God can convince a person even if they cant

16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

Romans 12:3 ... God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

- **We must** Walk in what God clearly shown us
- **We are** Responsible for what we hear...even if we disregard it

SUMMARY Pressing Toward the Goal: God has called us to victory and eternal life. Press on, Press in, Look ahead. Eyes on the prize.

III. Citizens of Heaven

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

- Follow my walk, my way of life as a pattern

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is* their belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

- **Enemies of the cross of Christ:**
 1. Not Legalists who impose add to the cross
 2. Those who practice licentiousness

1 Peter 2:16 [Live...] as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice [evil]

- God is their bellies?

God given desires become sin when used in excess or outside of God's perimeters

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

- **Food, Sex, Leisure:** All God given and good in moderation/in God's way
Freedom in Christ does not mean freedom to sin
Those with this attitude are Enemies of the Cross where Jesus bled/died for our sins
- **End is destruction:** Temporal and Eternal

Bear the Fruit of Earth Dwellers not Citizens of Earth not Heaven

- **Minds set on earthly things:** Cravings of the body are their gods

Not so for those who are born again...Greater Hope!

20 For our **citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

- Pilgrims not fully equipped for heaven **yet...**
 1. Citizenship is in heaven
 2. Eagerly wait for our Savior

Transform our physical/temporal bodies to be conformed to His glorious/eternal body

Romans 8:18 [Read] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we **eagerly wait** for it with perseverance.

- Suffering "not worthy to be compared" to glory to come. [That which elicits praise]
- **Earnest expectation of this change:** Eagerly waiting [Philippians 3:20]
- Creation subjected to futility...by God v20

Why: That we would be so frustrated we would turn to Him

That is why we have aches and pains, and infirmities, because the body is dead; that is, doomed to die, must die; it must see corruption unless the Lord come, and even in that case it must undergo a wondrous change; so we regard our body as dead. No wonder, then, that all those aches and pains and troubles of body do come upon us. The day shall come when, however, even it shall be delivered from the power of death [Spurgeon]

- Groan with labor pains waiting to be birthed into what we were supposed to be

2 Corinthians 5:1 [Read] For **we know** that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

- **We know** we have a new body waiting. v1
- **We groan** v2 and Romans 8:22
- **We are burdened** v 3 for "mortality to be swallowed up by life"...real life
- **We are guaranteed** a new body v 5 Holy Spirit our guarantee...down payment

Philippians 2:1 Consolation in Christ, comfort of love, fellowship of the Spirit, affection/mercy...

- **We walk in confidence** v 6
- **We walk by faith**/not sight v 7
- **We are well pleased** v 8 Lit. prefer to be absent from the body and with the Lord

1 Corinthians 15:35 [Read] But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" 36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive **unless it dies**. 37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. 40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is **raised a spiritual body**. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

- **Seed must die to allow for new life:** Metamorphosis
- **God has Two Bodies for us:**
 1. **Terrestrial** body made for earth: Make due here on earth
 2. **Celestial** body made for heaven: Equipped and fitted for heaven

- Natural body dies/buried in sin and Spiritual body raised/changed in perfection

There is a natural body, and **there is** a spiritual body. We will be dressed accordingly

45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

- First Adam received life/Second Adam gives life v45
- Natural man came first/Spiritual Man second v46
- First man made from the stuff of earth/Second Man from "stuff of heaven" v49

We will bear two images: **Image of Adam and the Image of Jesus**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

- **Mortal bodies must be changed for immortal:** Dressed for heaven

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

- **Mystery:** Something not known/fully explained in OT
 1. Some will die and be changed
 2. Some will never die [sleep John 11:12-13] and be changed v51
 - **Trumpet:** Something big is going to happen
 - Dead will be changed
 - Those alive at Jesus coming will be changed; caught up with Jesus

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

- **Sting of Death:**
 1. Sting to think about our own death
 2. Sting to think about death of others

Sting of death is sin and judgment: We are all dying because of sin. We are all lawbreakers and sin must be dealt with. Judgment must come.

- **Good News:**
 1. **Sin** was dealt with on the Cross of Christ

2. **Judgment** did fall on the Son of God on our behalf
3. **Victory** over sin/judgment was secured by Jesus sacrifice
4. **Eternal Life** was guaranteed by His resurrection

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

▪ **Since you have this hope:**

1. Be steadfast in your pilgrimage
2. Be immovable in your faith
3. Be abounding in the work of the Lord: Working out what God works in
4. Know this: You temporal laboring, suffering, hardships will be rewarded

Philippians 3:20 For our **citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body

1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so
Stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

SUMMARY Our Citizenship in Heaven