

# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### Knowing Christ: Our Greatest Joy & Pursuit

With Shannon Landriault

June 14, 2026



Philippians 3:1-14 (NLT) 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. **2** Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. **3** 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, **4** 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! **5** I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. **6** I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

**7** I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. **8** 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 **9** 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. **10** 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, **11** so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

**12** 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. **13** 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, **14** I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

#### • **REJOICE** in the Lord.

**1** 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.

#### • **REJECT** false teaching.

**2** Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. **3** 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,

#### • **RELY** only on Christ.

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#### • **RUN** towards Christ.

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**Big Idea: True joy is found in Christ and pursuing Him above all**

- **Where are you currently looking for joy? (hint – also notice what is stealing your joy)**
- **What is God asking you to adjust or turn away from?**
- **What are the ways that you can take a step towards Christ this week?**



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
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Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**Knowing Christ: Our Greatest Joy & Pursuit  
#10 of 15 - June 14, 2026**

### **Context**

1. Where is Paul located while writing Philippians 3? How does recognizing this make his exhortation to rejoice in the Lord even more compelling?
2. Who is Paul referring to as “dogs” and why is this part of the conversation relevant to the gentiles (non-Jews) who are hearing the message of circumcision? What does Paul want them to understand?

### **Observation**

3. What words or phrases stand out to you in the text? How does understanding that some of the words in Greek carried a deeper meaning adjust your thinking on the passage?
4. What examples did Paul provide in the passage about why if salvation was dependent on heritage that he would be at the front of the pack?

### **Meaning**

5. Paul states in verse 7 - “ I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.” What point is he trying to make?
6. In verse 13 Paul urges the listeners to forget what is behind and to look to what lies ahead. Discuss what this means what impacts it has for us today.

### **Application**

7. Rate your current level of joy in your life out of 10. In what ways is your joy tied to circumstances rather than to Christ?
8. Which of the main sermon points do you most connect to and feel that you need to focus on adjusting in the coming weeks? Share with your IC one way that you intend to make a change to move towards it. Where can you write this to remind yourself – ie. Sticky note, lock screen on phone etc.



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