

Philippians 3:3-7

The Flesh: Is It on the Throne or on the Cross?

Rootwork

1. **(Everyday)** Before you begin your study time - spend time in prayer! Go through your “yesterday” and ask the Lord to reveal your heart! Prepare your heart and surrender your will to the Spirit of God! Allow Him to have full access by not withholding anything He wants to do in and then do through you!! Make a conscious effort to bow your will and your obedience to the Lord before you even dive in! This prepares your heart to hear and to heed everything He speaks to you!
2. **(Everyday)** Then spend time in adoration and worship after you have cleansed your heart and before you dive into the scriptures!! Proclaiming who God is and adoring Him lifts our eyes up and keeps our focus on what really matters...putting God in His rightful place and putting us in ours! Remember, the enemy is going to try to keep you from being in the Word, he hates when we worship our God- Worship breaks his bondages over believers, so submit to God, resist him and he will flee!!
3. If you were at the “Digging Deeper Workshop” and you would like to structure these scriptures, Copy and paste Philippians 3 into a word/ pages document or write it out verse by verse, following the structuring handouts you received!(if you have not done so already) If you were not there and want to watch it, search “Digging Deeper” on our website or app and watch it for tools to help you in your study time!

4. **(Everyday)** After you finish your Rootwork every day, be sure to spend time in prayer (ACTS) going through what you have learned and received from the Word of God! This is also in your “Digging Deeper” handout.
5. Read verses 1–7 of Philippians chapter 3, and as you review, write the most profound truths God is speaking to your heart. Review your notes if needed, but from the last three studies we have done, what is God speaking to your heart through these Scriptures?
6. How have you personally been working on having an intentional mind? Give examples!
7. When you think of where you have needed an intentional mind, what areas have been the most difficult for you? A relationship? A particular situation? Explain.
8. Now, try to identify why that is so difficult for you. What is the root of this struggle? This is so important to identify, and in doing so you have the ability to break down strongholds!! So please spend time here!
9. Take a minute and contrast the different characteristics of the Judaizers, or the false circumcision, and the true circumcision. What do you see
10. What three things distinguish the true circumcision?
11. Let’s look closely at the first one—to worship God in the Spirit. What does that mean? Look up the word worship (in your Blue Letter Bible app) and as many cross-references as you can, and record what you find out about true worship. (If you need help with this, please let me know.)

12. Read John 4:23–24. What is Jesus saying here? (Read in context.) How does this give you insight into your own worship time?
13. Read Matthew 15:7–9 slowly, and record what kind of worship this is. Does this give you a healthy fear of God and a need for intentionality? Explain your answer!
14. Worship comes from the truth of God’s Word, the counsel of His Word, with a right heart and motive! It comes from affection and commitment to the Lord. What comes to your mind when you hear commitment?
15. Now look at what you wrote for question fourteen. Would you say that is what your relationship and worship truly looks like with the Lord? Be honest, and if not, can you pinpoint what you are holding back? The deeper you are committed to the Lord, having a greater knowledge of Him...the more authentic your worship of Him!
16. This quote from A.W. Tozer is very powerful: “What comes to our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” So what comes to your mind when you think about God?
17. When you approach God in prayer or worship, what are your thoughts of Him? Write them down!
18. Write out the second characteristic of the circumcision, and what you learn about “glory” from the Blue Letter Bible.
19. The Judaizers gloried in their flesh. What do you glory in?

20. What is being glorified in your life? Or you can look at it as a magnifying glass—whatever you are magnifying, focusing on, whatever is front and center in your life is exactly what is being glorified in your life! Be honest—the Lord already knows it. Write it out. If it is not the Lord, confess, repent, and surrender that to Him, and put the Lord in His rightful place!
21. Read and write out Ephesians 2:8–9. What is a gift, and how is it given? What is it a result of?
22. Look up the following verses and record what they say about boasting:
- 1 Corinthians 1:30–31
 - Jeremiah 9:23–24
 - Galatians 6:4
23. Now, what is the third characteristic of the true circumcision?
24. Look up the word “confidence” and “flesh” in your Blue Letter Bible app and record what they mean. Now, I want you to go through all the details of confidence and plug “flesh” in there just like we did in our study. Example: “do not be persuaded by the flesh, do not trust the flesh,” etc. This shows you exactly what God is trying to help us understand about how deceptive our flesh is! How does this change your perspective of the flesh?
25. Read this quote by Tozer and record your thoughts on it:
“Self-righteousness can lead to a blindness to one’s own sin and a lack of concern for spiritual growth, ultimately resulting in a rejection of God’s conviction.”
Can you identify with this? Have you been there? Are you there now? If so, what is the Lord trying to say to you?

26. Read and record Romans 7:18. Do you truly believe this? Oh, how it shows us our need for Christ! Oh, how we need to desperately depend on Him!! Praise Him that He made a way for us to truly just throw ourselves on Him, wrap ourselves in His righteousness, and rest in His finished work!!! Confidence in our flesh makes it so messy and miserable!!

27. Read the following Scriptures and record in your notes the nuggets that the Lord gives you and things that you need to take more seriously (and intentionally) in your walk! (If you have time, read more than just these—read them in the full context of the chapter. I condensed to get to the point of our study, but there is so much more about the flesh that the Lord speaks of, and we need to listen.)

- Romans 8:1–10
- Romans 13:14
- Galatians 6:8
- Galatians 5:13–21
- 2 Corinthians 6:14–18; 7:1
- Colossians 3:1–17

28. Look at the last week or the last month—how do you personally deal with the flesh? What do you do when it arises? Do you see it? Do you think it is time to be more intentional with the flesh—to make sure you are not excusing and justifying it? Write out your thoughts!

29. We have to stop treating the flesh as a joke and tolerating its evil intentions with a half-hearted smile...and we need to call it what it is and deal with it fiercely! My prayer for us is that we all understand how serious this is, and we hate it! Then, in hating it, we rid it every single time we even see the first signs of it! This is so, so important so we can walk in the Spirit! The flesh is not a personality trait, ladies, and it is not something we cannot control! God has given us everything we need to rid the flesh—we just have to be willing to empty ourselves and kill the part of self that raises itself in pride against the lordship of Christ!! Are you willing?

30. Now, in order to avoid pendulum swings, we know we will still sin because we have a sin nature. What is the difference between walking in the flesh, tolerating the flesh, excusing the flesh, and the fact that we still sin? How can you be sure your sin does not give opportunity for the flesh to rule?

31. Read Philippians 3:4–6. What is the connection between Philippians 3:3 and 4–6?

32. Now read Philippians 2:6–11. Below are Christ's 7 steps DOWN in humility in order to grant us true righteousness:

1. "Jesus emptied Himself"—He willingly chose to empty Himself. Before any action was taken, He made that choice!
2. Jesus took the form of a bondservant—a willing slave—choosing to lay down rights, plans, and opinions, loving His Father so much to serve to the point of death on a cross!
3. Jesus was made in the likeness of men—coming as a man, entering into our world and our timetable, taking on human flesh!

4. Jesus was found in appearance as a man
5. Jesus humbled Himself
6. Jesus became obedient
7. Jesus died a criminal's death on a cross

33. Now let's compare that list with Paul's 7 steps UP to self-righteousness:

1. Circumcision the 8th day—talk about circumcision, I got it, and at the right time (Leviticus 12:3)
2. I am of the nation of Israel—pure blood here, no faulty bloodlines in my stock, direct inheritance of the line of Jacob! Both parents Jews traced back to Abraham.
3. Tribe—Benjamin—could not get any better, a prominent and respected tribe, gave Israel its first king (Saul), the only tribe aligned with Judah when they split, distinguished and protected by God, the tribe that had Jerusalem within its borders.
4. Hebrew of Hebrews—purebred, not a Greek Jew, but a Hebrew that did not mix with culture or compromise.
5. Pharisee—elite sect of religious leaders—they had the Old Testament memorized, law enforcer and law abider, wealthiest, smartest, and most educated—they were the nation's celebrities of the culture.

(Read Acts 23:6b, Acts 22:3, and Acts 26:5 to see what they say about Paul being a Pharisee)

6. Zeal—persecutor of the Church (Acts 7–9), guilty of murder, but he thought he was doing the work of God
 7. Righteousness, which is in the law—based on the law (according to man), blameless
34. How did Paul’s background qualify him to expose the error of false teachers in Philippians 3:2?
35. Sometimes we do not fully see how God is going to use our story, our background or our choices in the past. Who knows, one day you may be the only person qualified to speak in to a life that is lost! You may be exactly where you are at for such a time as this! Look for opportunities!
36. Do you see the point Paul is making here? If heaven can be gained by works, I would check all your boxes...but I don’t check all of His!! See, you are measuring your righteousness based on your works, I measure my righteousness based on HIS!! What a beautiful picture!! Write out your thoughts and prayers to the Lord for what He has done!! Sometimes we need to stop and just praise Him!!
37. Read John 3:1-10, how did Jesus handle this situation and what answer did He give?

38. This is the ultimate question of our hearts: after we have identified any ounce of self-righteousness and legalism based on our works, we have to ask ourselves...Do we count our accomplishments, our best days, our best decisions, our most fruitful resumes...as loss compared to knowing Christ?
39. Think deeper with me—what have you gained in this earth, either by birth or by choice? What things of this world have you accomplished? Make a list! What have you attached to your identity? Can you say you would consider them loss for the sake of Christ?
40. Are you still chasing after the things of this world? Achievements in your own strength? Notches on your belt of accomplishments? My sweet sister, all of that is fake worth! It is not your identity nor your value! He is our ALL in ALL—our Blessed Hope, our Redeemer, and our glory! Every other accomplishment, by birth or by choice, is a blessing from God, but in comparison to Him...it is a loss!
41. The way up is indeed down! Read the following quote from Tozer (again 😊) and write your thoughts to the Lord:
“The only sin Jesus ever had was ours—and the only righteousness we can ever have is HIS!!”
42. Read Luke 18:18–25 and write out what Jesus has to say about how important this is! Take your time here—this is how we follow Christ, and we must be sure to listen to His words so we can be a vessel used for His honor and glory!! This is too important to just skim over, because you may know the words, but does your life reflect them?

43. I read a quote at the end of our study from Tozer (shocker 😏) that was so profound and so important for us to not just look at, but evaluate in our hearts! Daily we must check our hearts—see who is on the throne and on the cross—and adjust accordingly. Deal with the flesh accordingly so that all of what we have ever done or could do is nothing in light of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord and glorifying Him with every breath we have!

“In every Christian’s heart there is a cross and a throne, and the Christian is on the throne till he puts himself on the cross; if he refuses the cross he remains on the throne. Perhaps this is at the bottom of the backsliding and worldliness among gospel believers today. We want to be saved but we insist that Christ do all the dying. No cross for us, no dethronement, no dying. We remain king within the little kingdom of Man-soul and wear our tinsel crown with all the pride of a Caesar; but we doom ourselves to shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility.” —A.W. Tozer

Finish out by writing a prayer of response to the Lord! What is God speaking to your heart? Reply to Him!