

THE BOOK OF  
PHILIPPIANS

LIVING A LIFE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL

# PHILIPPIANS 3:1

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

WHAT ACTUALLY  
CHANGES A PERSON?

## PHILIPPIANS 3:2-3

Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

“RELIGION OPERATES ON THE PRINCIPLE ‘I OBEY—THEREFORE I AM ACCEPTED BY GOD.’ BUT THE OPERATING PRINCIPLE OF THE GOSPEL IS ‘I AM ACCEPTED BY GOD THROUGH WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE—THEREFORE I OBEY.’”

WHAT ACTUALLY  
CHANGES A PERSON?

# PHILIPPIANS 3:4

Though I myself have reasons for  
such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have  
reasons to put confidence in the flesh,  
I have more:

SOMETIMES, THE THING KEEPING  
SOMEONE FROM CHRIST IS NOT  
THAT THEY ARE TOO BAD, IT'S  
THAT THEY THINK THEY'RE  
ALREADY GOOD ENOUGH.

WHAT ACTUALLY  
CHANGES A PERSON?

## PHILIPPIANS 3:7-9

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

## PHILIPPIANS 3:10

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

WHAT ACTUALLY  
CHANGES A PERSON?

# PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

THE SPIRITUALLY MATURE PERSON IS NOT THE PERSON WHO PRETENDS TO BE FINISHED. THE SPIRITUALLY MATURE PERSON IS THE PERSON WHO KEEPS PRESSING ON TOWARD CHRIST, UNDERSTANDING THEY ARE STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS.

# PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

WHAT ACTUALLY  
CHANGES A PERSON?

## PHILIPPIANS 3:17

Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

## PHILIPPIANS 3:19-20

For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

## PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

WHAT ACTUALLY  
CHANGES A PERSON?

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where are you most tempted to put “confidence in the flesh”? How can we boast in Christ instead of ourselves?
2. Paul says he wants to know both the resurrection power of Christ and participation in His sufferings. We often want the comforts that come from knowing Jesus, but we struggle with the suffering that comes. Where do you see that tension in your own life?
3. Paul says, “I have not arrived.” How do we keep pursuing Christ instead of coasting, pretending, living in shame, or living in the past?
4. Who/what is really influencing you right now? Who/what really influences you? Is that voice leading you closer to Christ?