



SUNDAY MESSAGE

GET A GRIP

Caleb Buck

THE LIFT CHURCH

theliftchurch.tv

THE TEXT

PHILIPPIANS 3

"Not that I have already attained this or am already perfected, but I press on to lay hold of, to grasp, to get a grip on that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me and made me His own."

PHILIPPIANS 3:12 (AMPLIFIED, PARAPHRASED)

Caleb opened by asking a simple question: what are you seeking? What are you pursuing, chasing, trying to get a grip on? Everyone has something they're investing their time, energy, and affection into — but true satisfaction is found in one man alone: Jesus.

Paul isn't writing something new to the church at Philippi. He's reiterating foundational truth — not to introduce a new idea, but to protect and establish their faith in the one message that matters most.

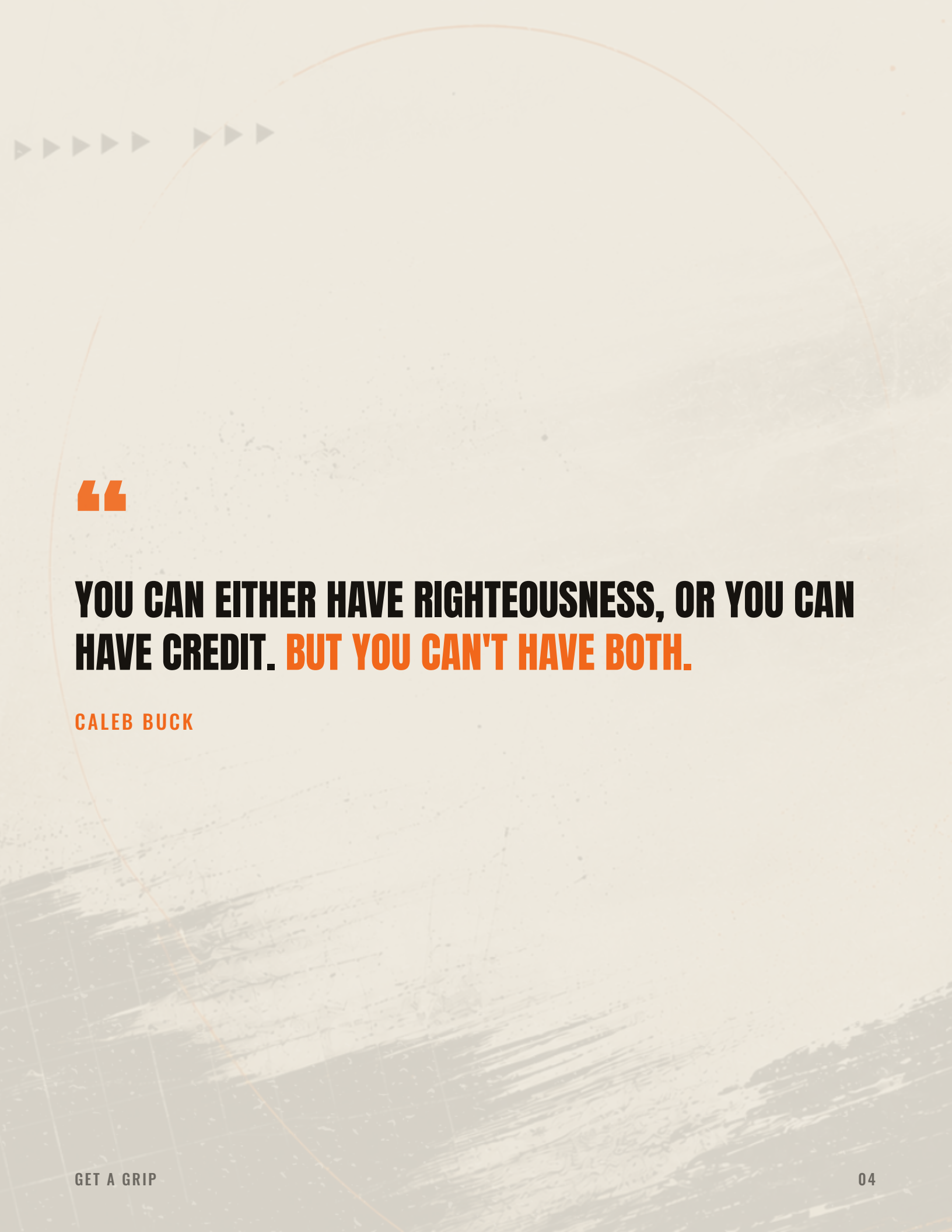
THE QUESTION

▶ ▶ WHAT ARE YOU PURSUING?

Paul warns the church about those insisting Gentile believers add religious requirements — like circumcision — on top of faith in Christ. He isn't attacking Jewish custom itself, but a mindset that says you must qualify yourself through pedigree, effort, or outward marks to earn acceptance.

That mindset quietly undermines the finished work of the cross. **Jesus is necessary — but the lie is that He isn't enough.** Caleb's answer: Jesus is in fact enough. What He starts, He intends to finish.

True worship isn't defined by ritual, location, or resume. As Jesus told the woman at the well, true worshippers worship the Father "in spirit and in truth" — through genuine relationship, not religious performance.



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**YOU CAN EITHER HAVE RIGHTEOUSNESS, OR YOU CAN
HAVE CREDIT. BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE BOTH.**

CALEB BUCK

JESUS PLUS NOTHING

Paul had every credential a religious resume could offer — circumcised the eighth day, pure-blooded Israelite, a Pharisee, zealous, faultless under the law. And yet he called all of it worthless compared to knowing Christ Jesus.

"It's possible to be winning at religion while losing at relationship." You can look like you're doing everything right and still feel a thousand miles from His presence — because confidence has shifted from what Christ did for you to what you can do for Him.

Righteousness through faith isn't earned, it's received. **It must become Jesus plus nothing else** at the very core of what we believe. We don't perform to become righteous — we live because we already have been made righteous.

GRIPPED

▶ ▶ LEARN TO CLING

THE PIGGYBACK RIDE

Caleb described carrying his daughter on his back: "I've got you, but I need you to take hold of me." He could carry her regardless — but the ride is better, and the relationship fuller, when she participates by holding on.

GRIPPED, SO WE GRIP BACK

Paul uses the same word for his pursuit of Christ that he uses for Christ's pursuit of him: "I press on to get a grip on that for which Christ Jesus has gripped me." Jesus laid hold of us first. Grace initiates; faith responds.

Our only worthy response is to turn around and grip Him back — not to earn His hold on us, but to cling to the One who already has hold of us.

▶ ▶ WHERE IS YOUR **CONFIDENCE?**

- 1 What are you pursuing?** What are you seeking to get a grip on that only Jesus can satisfy?
- 2 Where has your confidence shifted** — toward what you do for Christ, or what He has already done for you?
- 3 Are you clinging to Him,** or trying to carry yourself? He has already laid hold of you — will you turn and grip Him back?

Closing charge: "He that began a good work in you is faithful to complete it. Let that good work begin to swell on the inside of you again — and get a grip on Him, for He is decisively, eagerly holding on to you."