THE SPIRITUAL MIND

Philippians 3:1–14 | Reverend Michael Wiseman | Sunday School

Lesson focus: The third thief of joy is **Things**—both tangible possessions and intangible pursuits such as reputation, achievement, and self-satisfaction.

I. Rejoice in the Lord | Philippians 3:1–3

• Christian joy is rooted in the Lord, not in earthly things.

• Reject confidence in the flesh; distinguish the fleshly mindset from the spiritual mind.

Notes: _____

II. Evaluate What Really Counts | Philippians 3:4–8

• Paul the accountant: “I count.” He weighs what is gain and what is loss.

• Ask: Which values control my decisions? What is truly valuable compared with knowing Christ?

• Earthly success and status cannot substitute for spiritual gain.

Notes: _____

III. Pursue Knowing Christ | Philippians 3:9–11

• Paul desires to know Christ, His resurrection power, and fellowship in His sufferings.

• True righteousness is through faith in Christ, not personal accomplishment.

Notes: _____

IV. Press Toward the Goal | Philippians 3:12–14

• The Christian life is pictured as a race: leave what is behind and reach toward what is ahead.

• “Press on” conveys pursuing or chasing with focus and intensity.

• Lay aside distractions and weights; keep the prize of God’s high calling in view.

Notes: _____

V. Finish by Leaning on the Father | Illustration

• Derek Redmond fell during an Olympic race and finished with his father’s support; he was not an official finisher.

• Application: When our strength fails, we depend on our heavenly Father.

• Closing hymn: “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.”

Notes: _____

Personal reflection: What “thing” is most likely to steal my joy or distract me from pursuing Christ?