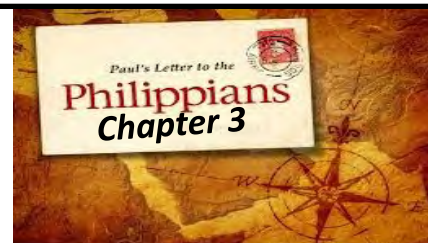


John Piper states “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.” In Philippians 2:12 Paul tells the Philippians to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, encouraging them that God is the one who works in them, giving them the will to work for God's good pleasure. As he commences the final part of his letter he has another exhortation for them, and uses his own testimony to illustrate it.



Philippians ch.3

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Read 3:1-6. Underline the instruction in v1 and mark pronouns referring to Paul with a

What is Paul's instruction in v1?

Rejoice—5463 to rejoice exceedingly, to be well, to thrive.

Safe—804—firm, that which can be relied on.

How has he shown this “rejoicing” in ch.1&2?

v2 What warning does he give?

v3 What 4 things does he say are true of the believers?

v4-6 What different ways did Paul express confidence in the flesh?

How does all of this relate to his instruction in v1?

Read 3:7-11. Mark Christ (including pronouns) with a and mark gain with a  and loss with a 

Mark “righteousness” with an “R” (mark in v6 as well)

What does Paul say about his losses and his gains?

What sort of righteousness had he been striving for? v6

Can this lead to rejoicing? Why or why not?

How has this changed for Paul?

v10-11 What is Paul's life focus?

What does this teach us about what it means to rejoice in the Lord? What does this involve?

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Philippians ch. 4:1

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Read 3:12-16. Mark pronouns referring to Paul with a


v12-14 Make a list of what you learn about Paul?

Press on —1377—to seek after eagerly, to earnestly endeavour to acquire
Straining forward —1901—to stretch oneself forward to .

v12 What has Christ Jesus already done?

What has all of this to do with working out our salvation?

Why is it important to remember what Christ has already done? (v12)

Read 3:17-4:1. Mark “we” / “our” with a  and underline the instructions in 3:17 & 4:1

What does Paul invite the believers to do?

What are the characteristics and the end of those who walk as enemies of the cross?

What are the implications for us in being citizens of heaven?

Citizenship —4275—the administration of civilian affairs

How does this contrast with v19?

4:1 How does Paul’s instruction flow out of all he has just been writing? Note especially v13-14

What do you think it means to rejoice in the Lord and to stand firm in the Lord?

How can we walk this out in our everyday life?