



# Philippians

Living in the Joy of Knowing Christ!

## The Joy of Knowing Christ's Resurrection!

**Philippians 3:1-11**

Message #10 of 16 – S997

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Sunday Morning Service

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# The Joy of Knowing Christ's Resurrection!

## *Philippians 3:1-11*

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **Philippians 3**
- Today, we continue our series through the book of **Philippians – Living in the Joy of Knowing Christ!**
- The better we know Christ, who He is, what He said, what He did, and what He promised, the better our relationship can be with Him
- And the better our relationship with Him, the more joy we experience in this life
- If you want more joy – get to know your Savior better
- As you do that you will learn of His desire that you walk with Him in faith
- The greatest of joy that we can experience is by being in Christ's presence every day, moment-by-moment **Psalm 16:11**

**You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

- One of the reasons we lack joy is because we try to determine 'the path of life' for ourselves
- 'At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.' **Ephesians 2:10**

**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

- When we know Christ better, and know the good works God prepared for us, and by faith walk in them, at Christ's right hand, we will know joy, peace, hope, love, and all else that God promised us
- In this text Paul is going to tell us a few of the things we need to know about Christ, but he is also going to warn us about a very real danger that all believers face
- Let's pray and then look at a few verses
- **Pray**

### Teaching

- **The Joy of Knowing Christ's Resurrection!**
- Paul changes directions a little in his letter to the Philippians

- He begins this text with a reminder, then a warning, and we will close with an exhortation
  - **Philippians 3:1**
  - ‘rejoice in the Lord’ – rejoice - verb, present tense, active voice, imperative, second person, plural
  - Imperative = command, Active voice = you are doing it, Present tense = doing it now – rejoice in the Lord is a command, to be done actively and done in the right now
  - ‘it is safe’ – cautionary – because we may be tempted by life to stop rejoicing in the Lord
  - Not tedious to remind you, it is for your good
  - Now the warning
  - **Philippians 3:2**
  - A little background is important here
  - Paul regularly contended with a group comprised of Jews who had supposedly come to faith in Christ – known as Judaizers
  - They insisted that believers not only believe in Jesus, but they must also adhere to the Jewish rules and rituals, especially to circumcision
  - Paul uses some very strong language to denounce this group
  - ‘dogs’ – Jews did not keep dogs as pets or use them for working
  - They were feral animals similar to the coyote – religiously unclean
  - They fed on the weak and vulnerable
  - That is what Paul is accusing these men of doing with the Gentile believers
  - We, today, must beware of those who prey upon the weak and vulnerable believers
  - ‘evil workers’ – they claimed to be doing the work of God
  - Paul is saying that what they are doing is evil – not of God
  - Not everyone who claims to work for God is – Jesus speaking to the Jews at the temple **John 8:44**
- You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.**
- Third one – ‘beware of the mutilation’

- Paul is referring to their insistence upon the rite of circumcision
- To them, you prove you are in the body of Christ by mutilating your body in this way – God gave circumcision as a sign for the Jews
- If they are encouraging you to mutilate your body – beware, not of God - We see this today in the cult of transgenderism
- Beware, there are people and groups who want to lure away believers from the path of life at the right hand of God
- The better we know Christ, the less vulnerable we are to the subtle influence of the devil and his devices
- After the warning, Paul reminds us who we are
- **Philippians 3:3**
- ‘we are the circumcision’
- Paul is saying that by faith, the Philippians were what the Judaizers were trying to make them through legalistic observance to the Jewish laws.
- You could say that Paul is saying, ‘we are the real circumcision

**Romans 2:28-29**

**For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.**

- Paul then gives three indicators of being in Christ
- First - ‘worship God in the Spirit’
- When we receive Christ, the Holy Spirit dwells within us **1**

**Corinthians 3:16**

**Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

- One of His roles in our life is to teach us how to worship God by faith, not through religious rules and rituals. **John 4:23-24**

**But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**

- Second - ‘rejoice in Christ Jesus’ – rejoice in = glory in.
- Another of the roles of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us is to exalt Jesus through our lives **John 16:13-14**

**However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak;**

and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

- Jesus is the focus of our praise and worship.
- Third - ‘have no confidence in the flesh’ –
- If you are glorying in or boasting in Christ, than you cannot be trusting in your own flesh at the same time.
- The Judaizers were telling people they could be right with God through adherence to the Jews religious rules and regulations.
- Paul said it is faith that saves us **Ephesians 2:8-9**  
**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

- Then Paul uses himself as an example

- **Philippians 3:4-6**

- The Judaizers were telling the non-Jewish believers that they needed to be like the Jews if they wanted to be right with God
- If anyone could have made that claim, it was Paul – he was as Jewish as a religious Jew could get
- Then when Paul (Saul) met Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul realized that his religious life couldn’t make him right with God
- And if Paul, who was doing the Jewish religion better than any of his peers couldn’t please God that way, neither could anyone else
- Paul looked back on his life before Christ and saw the value of his Jewish religion

- **Philippians 3:7**

- It was all useless and vanity
- Now there was something better

- **Philippians 3:8**

- Before Christ, all of the things he was striving after were the most valuable things in the world
- But compared to knowing Christ - All that stuff he was living for was rubbish = animal waste
- If you ever want to help someone be free from something, the best thing you can do for them is to help them to know Christ Jesus their Lord – He can set them free **John 8:36**

**Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**

- Jesus is the answer to everything in this life – must know Him

- **Philippians 3:9**

- The Judaizers were promoting righteousness through rules and rituals of the Mosaic Law

- Righteousness is not something that can be achieved through human effort – it is apprehended by faith in Christ **Romans 10:1-4**

**Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**

- Our righteousness – our rightness with God is not dependent upon what we do because we can never do enough to be perfectly right with God

- Our righteousness depends, not on what we do, but upon what Jesus did – He paid the penalty for our sins on the cross

- Paul goes on to tell us that there is power in that truth

- **Philippians 3:10-11**

- Paul considered all of his previous achievements and religious practices as so much garbage – so that three things would be possible

- First - 'that I may know Him'

- God, sovereign ruler over all of creation wants to be known by His creation.

- He has revealed Himself in many ways over the millennia, but the chief way was through His Son Jesus.

- Jesus was the physical manifestation of God the Father **John 14:9**  
**Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"**

- The fruit of knowing Christ better is joy, and peace, and hope.

- Second – 'that I may know...the power of His resurrection'.

- There is nothing more tragic than a powerless Christian.

- We have God the Holy Spirit dwelling in us and Christ, who was raised from the dead by God's infinite power is our Lord and Savior.

- There is no limit to what God can do through the life of a man or a woman who puts their trust in Him.

- The power that raised Jesus from the dead is living within each of us.

- It is infinite and able to do what we might call impossible.
- We can wake up every morning to a fresh start with God.
- And the resurrection is the proof that we are right with God by faith
- Third – ‘that I may know...the fellowship of His sufferings’.
- One of the more difficult and less desirable aspects of Christianity is that we cannot know Christ apart from His sufferings.
- And we cannot know His sufferings if we have not suffered ourselves.
- Fellowship has the idea of sharing life together
- It speaks of community.
- Jesus meets us in our suffering and if we are humbled before God.
- He will show us Christ’s suffering in our sufferings and we will be comforted by the knowledge that Jesus understands what we are going through.
- But to truly know the fellowship of Christ’s suffering, we need to meet Him in the suffering of others.
- We do that by ministering to the needs of those who are suffering and through intercessory prayer.
- Growing in the knowledge of Christ leads to more joy, as well as peace, hope, and the awareness of God’s love, grace, and mercy
- Paul says he counted everything else as rubbish, so that he could know Christ better
- That is how we are going to know Christ better and better and experience the joy of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord
- It is not that we turn our back on everything else in our lives
- It is about assigning value to knowing Christ as the highest thing in your life
- So high that everything else in comparison is little better than garbage
- Nothing else in life will bring you joy like knowing Christ
- As we grow in our knowledge of Christ, the joy we experience in the other things of life is so much sweeter
- Make it your daily goal and prayer to get to know Jesus a little better
- **Pray**