

Bible Study 01-07-2026

Philippians 3:7-16

Title: Reset

The Book of Philippians can be considered the book of joy. Paul wrote this letter to the Christians at Philippi to encourage the saints and believers in Christ everywhere to keep their eyes on the prize. He wanted them to live in the joy of The Lord and His kingdom instead of just reacting to their circumstances. Life as we know is full of ups and downs. But there is a thief. According to Jesus in **John 10:10** *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I Am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* **Colossians 3:2** *"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."* In Luke 12 Jesus warned us that our lives do not consist in the abundance of the things that we possess. If you have all the things money can buy, be certain you have not neglected that which money cannot buy.

Note: Reset. Focus. **Ecclesiastes 12** *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."* **Revelation 22:12** *"And behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be."*

Many respond with reluctance to desire The Lord's return because they are comfortable, while others may be anxious for His return because they are suffering. Joy comes from God alone and consists of internal peace and stability in spite of external circumstances. Paul was incarcerated but he was free in his mind and used his liberty to edify the body of Christ. Paul lived what he preached. He had a servant heart and adopted the same attitude of the ultimate servant Jesus Christ:

Philippians 1:12 NKJV *"But I want you to know brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the Gospel;"* Paul did not see himself as a victim, but as a prisoner for Jesus Christ. God is always in control. He will strengthen us to bear whatever situation falls upon us. Seize every opportunity to be a witness to the saving power of Christ. If we have sinned and missed the mark, repent and get back to work witnessing.

Reset: Paul wanted the saints to know that God is using his suffering to promote the gospel. Remember when you feel like you can't, the gospel is not hindered by struggle and persecution when they are tied to our faith and witness. Allow yourself to make necessary changes as Paul did, to align your life with your overall well being, goals and values.

*"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that we may be blameless, and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; **Philippians 2:5,14, 15 KJV***

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. NLT

8 Yea doubtless (more than that), and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Paul teaches us that if right standing before God were based on personal pedigree and accomplishments then he would be at the head of the line (verses 4-7). I count all things to be loss in the view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord: The only way a person can view life from this perspective: learn how valuable Christ truly is, let your knowledge of Jesus become your way of life, make a decision to follow Him, and continue to seek after the knowledge of the Lord more and more. Paul says, "I have suffered the loss of all things" he forfeited everything (political and social status, wealth, religious position...) that he may win (have a relationship with) Christ. Paul put no confidence in the flesh, nor his own ability, but had complete confidence in what Jesus did.

Romans 7:18 *For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

Matthew 6:24 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.*

This knowledge is excellent.

Songs: "Chasing After You" by William Murphy or VaShawn Mitchell

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Paul was looking ahead either to death or to the return of Christ. The righteousness of God is Jesus Christ Himself. To become acceptable to God, a person has to believe in the Son.

There is great joy in believing in Jesus Christ who desires to have a personal relationship with us and to be our Lord and Savior.

10 *That I may know Him, **and** the power of His resurrection, **and** the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;*

Know: to taste and experience. Christ suffered for proclaiming the righteousness and salvation of God. Because He proclaimed the way men could become accepted to God and live forever. Paul stated in **Philippians** 1:21 "*For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain*" Jesus saved the believer in Him from sin, death and condemnation. And He made it possible for the believers to live forever with God in His new heaven and earth.

11 *If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

Nothing compares with the value of knowing Christ for yourself. Above all else, let us share Paul's passion and desire to come to know Christ and experience the power of His resurrection. Let us therefore become, "Fully Committed" and "I Surrender All"

12 *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

13 *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

14 *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

I'm not there yet but I follow after, I am chasing and in hot pursuit (eagerly and following closely behind) that I may take hold of that for which I was taken hold of by Christ Jesus. One thing brothers and sisters I had to do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I PRESS forward. Live for Christ.

15 *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

16 *Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.*

Paul includes himself, "Let us": We must put in the work like an athlete and give quality time to be more like Jesus. This is not so much a physical activity as it is a posturing of the heart and shifting our focus away from our own agendas. Those who are otherwise minded have not yet reached a level of spiritual maturity where they are able to do this. Your words, actions and deeds come from the motivation of your heart. With the help of the Lord, we grow in grace and become Perfect: mature, developed or complete. This does not mean flawless.