



*To Live is **CHRIST***

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Lesson Five

Gold River Calvary Chapel
Women's Bible Fellowship

Spring 2021

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A Study of the Book of Philippians Gold River Calvary Chapel Women's Ministry

Lesson Five

Step One: Read the Word

"In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3

This study uses the Christian Standard Bible translation (CSB), which is provided for you in each lesson in Step One. Please use that version to fill in blanks or answer questions, but you are encouraged to read as many translations as you like in order to get a fuller understanding of the scripture.

In Step One, try to determine the "who, what, where, when or how" of the passage. Look for words that are repeated often, such as "in Christ" or "joy" or "rejoice." Circle any key words and underline phrases that stick out to you. Use the column to the right to jot down any notes, scripture references, or questions you might have.

Note: There is an example of how to do Step One in the Introduction to this study. You can also use the "Bible Study Aids" included in the Introduction to gain more understanding of the passage of scripture.

Remember to always pray before you read God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to open the scripture to your understanding.

Read Philippians 3:1-21 starting on the next page:

Philippians 3:1-21
Christian Standard Bible

Knowing Christ

3 In addition, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. To write to you again about this is no trouble for me and is a safeguard for you.

² Watch out for the dogs, watch out for the evil workers, watch out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, the ones who worship by the Spirit of God, boast in Christ Jesus, and do not put confidence in the flesh— ⁴ although I have reasons for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day; of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; regarding the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ regarding zeal, persecuting the church; regarding the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.

⁷ But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ.

⁸ More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ^[a]—the righteousness from God based on faith.

¹⁰ My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, ¹¹ assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

Reaching Forward to God's Goal

¹² Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus.

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not^[b] consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, ¹⁴ I pursue as my

goal the prize promised by God's heavenly^(c) call in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Therefore, let all of us who are mature think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this also to you. ¹⁶ In any case, we should live up to whatever truth we have attained.

¹⁷ Join in imitating me, brothers and sisters, and pay careful attention to those who live according to the example you have in us.

¹⁸ For I have often told you, and now say again with tears, that many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame; and they are focused on earthly things.

²⁰ Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.

Step 2: Consider the Word

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Colossians 3:16

Re-read Philippians 3:1-21 and answer the questions below.

1.
 - a. What does Paul tell his brothers and sisters in Christ (that's us!) to do in verse 1?
 - b. Note that Paul does not tell them to rejoice in their circumstances. Instead, who are they to rejoice in?
 - c. What role does the Holy Spirit have in our rejoicing? See Galatians 5:22 and John 15:11
 - d. Why do you think Paul considers reminding the Philippians to rejoice a "safeguard" for them?

2. a. In verses 2-3, Paul contrasts those who insist on outward religious practice with true heart worship. There were false Jewish teachers at that time going to the Gentile churches that Paul established teaching that to be saved one had to follow the Law of Moses AND faith in Jesus Christ. They were insisting that men had to be circumcised to be saved. Although circumcision was a sign of the covenant between the people of God in the Old Testament, what do the following scriptures tell you about God's desire from the beginning that his people worship him from the heart and not just outward appearances?

Deuteronomy 10:12 and 16:

Deuteronomy 30:6:

Romans 2:28-29:

- b. See verse 3. What three things mark those who are of the true circumcision?

1.

2.

3.

c. Why do you think Paul went on to describe his impressive credentials as a “Hebrew of Hebrews” in verses 4-6?

3. a. How does Paul view all his own righteousness and “achievements for God” in verses 7-8? Why?

b. What does Paul count as gain (verse 8)?

c. Where does his righteousness come from (verse 9)? Is that true of all Christians?

d. The American missionary and martyr Jim Elliot said before he went to the mission field, *"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."*

How do you think this relates to what Paul is saying in verses 7-9? (See also Mark 8:36 and Luke 14:33)

4. a. By the time Paul was writing this letter to the Philippians, he had been a Christian for almost 30 years, working tirelessly preaching the gospel and establishing churches all over Asia Minor and now in Europe (Philippi). Yet, what was his goal in verse 10?

b. What relationship is there between knowing Jesus in a deeper and more personal way and experiencing the power of his resurrection? (See 2 Peter 1:3-4)

c. In 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 Paul gives us a glimpse of what he suffered for the cause of Christ. How do you think Paul might have experienced the “fellowship of Christ’s sufferings” as he was conformed to Jesus’ death (see also 2 Cor. 1:5)?

5. a. According to verse 12, even toward the end of a very fruitful ministry, did Paul think that he had attained perfection?

b. What does Paul’s example tell us are the two things one must do in order to pursue as one’s goal, “the prize promised by God’s heavenly call in Christ Jesus?” (Verse 13b)

1. _____ what is behind; and
2. _____ to what is ahead.

c. Why do you think its important to forget what is behind? Do you think that includes both the good and the bad? Why?

d. Why is it important to “make every effort,” to “reach forward” and to “pursue” the goal of the prize in Jesus? Can we ever “rest on our laurels” and consider that we have arrived?

6. a. In verses 18 and 19, Paul again warns the Philippians that there are those who are enemies of the cross. What four things are true about these enemies?

b. In contrast, according to Phil 3:20-21 and Colossians 3:1-2, what should citizens of heaven seek?

Memory Verse: “ But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, ¹⁴ I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God’s heavenly^[c] call in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13b-14)

Write the memory verse down below:

Step 3: Walk in the Word

“...As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Philipplians 1:27

Re-read Philipplians 3:1-21 and answer the questions below:

1. Paul tells us in verse 1 to rejoice in the Lord, not necessarily our circumstances. Consider the following small sampling of scriptures which help us to take our eyes off our circumstances and put them on the Lord. Which of these ministers most to you right now in your circumstances? Why?

(Note: scriptures below are in the New King James Version translation)

Psa 31:7: *I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, For You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities,*

Psa 119:162: *I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.*

Isa 61:10: *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks [himself] with ornaments, and as a bride adorns [herself] with her jewels.*

Psa 5:11: *But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.*

Jhn 16:22: *"Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."*

Mat 5:12: *"Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great [is] your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

2. Galatians 5:22 says that joy is a characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit. With that in mind, give a practical example of how you can be obedient to the Lord's command to rejoice in Him in a situation that would otherwise rob you of your joy.

3. See verse 10.
 - a. Give an example of when you experienced God's resurrection power in your life. Were you at your weakest or strongest physically or emotionally in that moment? Explain.

 - b. Have you ever experienced the "fellowship of Christ's sufferings?" What are some of the things you learned about Jesus that you can share?

4. Why do you think confidence in our achievements or regretting our failures are hindrances to our spiritual growth in Christ? (See verses 12-14). Are there past achievements or failures in your own life that may be holding you back?

5. In verse 15, Paul makes a statement that those who are mature in Christ have in mind the same goal that he stated in verses 10-11. What do you think some of the marks of being a mature Christian are? What areas of maturity would you like to grow in?

Write the memory verse below:

**“But one thing I do: _____ what is behind and
reaching _____ to what is ahead, ¹⁴ I pursue as my
goal the _____ promised by _____
heavenly^[c] call in _____ .**

(Philippians 3:13b-14)

What lesson or truth meant the most to you this week?

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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