

04

PHILIPPIANS 3:8-21

TRULY RIGHTEOUS

THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Perhaps you know a lot about music, sports, or video games. Chances are that you feel confident in this subject or hobby because you're deeply invested in it. The more time and energy we devote to a hobby, skill, or subject, the more competent and confident we will be in talking about it or engaging in it. Today we are going to see that the gospel is different. If you want to be confident in your relationship with God, you don't have to first invest a lot of time and energy. In Philippians 3:3, Paul described Christians as those who "do not put confidence in the flesh." In other words, a right relationship with God can't be earned through effort or investment of time. For Jesus followers, the deep investment of time comes *after* trusting in Jesus. Knowing Jesus means trusting and growing in His righteousness.



CENTRAL **truth**

Knowing Jesus means trusting and growing in His righteousness.



EXPLORE

scripture

PHILIPPIANS 3:8-21

PHILIPPIANS 3:8-11

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—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.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

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 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 call in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21

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.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE PHILIPPIANS 3:10

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-9

DWELL

Many people believe that we need to earn righteousness by being “good people” and doing the “correct” things. True righteousness is actually a *result* of trusting God. Paul had plenty of reasons to brag—such as being born in the “right” place, being raised by the “right” parents, and being educated the “right” way. But as a follower of Christ, he recognized that none of these things would “earn” God’s love. In fact, these things didn’t impress God at all! True righteousness comes from following Christ out of love, not out of a desire to get something in return.

← What did Paul mean by “confidence in the flesh”? What was he confident in before his conversion to Christianity? Afterward?

↓ What are some aspects of your life you might be confident in? Will these things bring you closer to God? Why or why not?

MEMORIZE

Write Philippians 3:10 on a sticky note and place it somewhere you’ll see it every day, like your bathroom mirror, a notebook, or inside your locker. Read it to yourself each time you see it.

PRAY

Thank God that He doesn’t ask us to earn His love by being born in the right place or acting the right way; His love is a free gift—no strings attached.

day 2

PHILIPPIANS 3:10-14

DWELL

↻ What does Paul say that his goal is? Has he reached his goal?

➔ Are you working toward this goal in your own life? What are some ways you can do this?

Paul used the metaphor of a race to illustrate his goals as a follower of Christ. Like a runner in a race, Paul was committed to leaving behind his past and keeping his eyes focused on the end goal—reunion with Christ and sharing in His resurrection. By this, Paul didn't simply mean physical resurrection after death, but spiritual resurrection, as well—the complete transformation of his life to be more like Jesus.

MEMORIZE

Take a slip of paper or index card and draw or write Philippians 3:10 using markers or colored pencils. Use it as a bookmark in one of your text books or notebooks this week.

PRAY

Pray that God would help you to persevere and keep your eyes focused on Him throughout the coming week.

day 3

PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21

DWELL

Paul urged his readers to continue to follow his example, then turned his attention to the people who were living in an opposite kind of way, claiming to follow Christ but teaching a false gospel (see v. 2). He spoke of these teachers with tears because of all the damage they did to the church with their incorrect teachings—so much so that Paul called them enemies of God.

↓ How did Paul describe the false teachers? How did he compare them to the believers who were truly following Paul's example of following Christ?

↻ How can we be sure that we are following Christ in truth and as citizens of heaven, not following false or self-centered teachings?

MEMORIZE

Write each word from Philippians 3:10 on a different index card. Mix them up and then place them in order.

PRAY

Ask God to show you any ways that you have been focused on earthly things more than on Him.

day 4

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

DWELL

Christ's love was the primary motivation driving everything Paul did. He explained that from the moment we truly trust in Jesus, we are new creations. Jesus physically died on the cross so that we could "die to self" and start living with new priorities, loving God and loving our neighbors as Jesus commanded us (see Matt. 22:36-39). We no longer look at even Christ through our old lens of self-centered motivations—following Him means living for Him and everything He teaches us.

↑ What is reconciliation? How are we reconciled to God, according to Paul?

↔ How should knowing that we are reconciled to God motivate us to live?

MEMORIZE

Find a recording of Philippians 3:10 on the web, in a podcast, or on a Bible app. Listen to it every day this week.

PRAY

Spend some time thanking Jesus for the ways that following Him changes our life and our perspective.

day 5

ISAIAH 26:7-9

DWELL

Following Christ doesn't mean that our lives will be easy or free of conflict—in fact, Jesus taught that the opposite would be true. But righteousness—being in right relationship with God through Christ—means that we can trust God will guide us. Even in times of trial and difficulty, we can trust that God is using those circumstances to grow us and make our paths through life more "level" and more and more free of the bumps, snags, and ruts that make it difficult to navigate.

← These verses say that the Israelites would wait on the Lord in times of judgment. What does it mean to wait on the Lord, and why is it important?

→ How could waiting on the Lord help guide you in an area of your life that is difficult right now?

MEMORIZE

Practice reciting Philippians 3:10 from memory with a friend or family member. Ask them to follow along as you recite, and prompt you with words from the verse if you need help remembering.

PRAY

Pray for a fellow believer who is going through a difficult time. Ask God to guide them in righteousness and lead them on a straight, level path.