

PHILIPPIANS
Focus on the Christ
Lesson 4
Chapter 3

Lesson 3 Review: Paul used a first century hymn to remind us that Jesus was all God but humbled himself to become all man (remained all God – Kenosis). He was crucified but God “supremely” exalted him, giving him the name above all names.

Knowing Christ

3 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write to you again about this is no trouble for me and is a protection for you.

Finally _____ protection _____: From what?

² Watch out for “dogs,” watch out for evil workers, watch out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God, boast in Christ Jesus, and do not put confidence in the flesh—

dogs: feral and “_____” Who is Paul writing about? _____

circumcision (Gal 6:15) – circle the 3 indications of True circumcision (Rom 8:9)

⁴ although I once also had 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.

Paul says “Credentials – let’s compare” v. 5 – rituals, heritage, tradition, rule follower, zeal

“People can be sincere, but sincerely _____” CCE p.139

How to Know Christ

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 filth, 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.

_____ # of times Paul refers to Christ

Paul considers his past “credentials/life” as rubbish/ _____ Matt 16:26

Paul traded his list of accomplishments a “Hebrew of Hebrews” for.....

v. 9 !!! We get _____ from God based on _____! _____ righteousness

v.10 Paul wants to know Christ more through HIS (1) _____ of resurrection and

(2) fellowship of _____/_____.

What 2 ways will we reach the “resurrection from among the dead?” 1 Thess 4:13-17

Reaching... No Running Forward to God’s Goal

¹² Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brothers, 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.

The goal/prize? _____ Taking Hold?

¹⁵ Therefore, all who are mature should 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 observe 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. They are focused on earthly things,

Our Gifts/Truth! _____ Who should we imitate?

“Find people who are captured by the Gospel” CCE p. 159 _____ Proverbs 13:20

²⁰ but our *citizenship* is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, 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.

Our maturity is about _____ in _____ 1 Cor 15:49

The Power?

5 Challenges for Growing in Maturity CCE p. 163

Humbly acknowledge that you haven’t arrived
Passionately pursue a greater knowledge of Christ
Never lose the wonder of the Gospel
Follow cross-centered, heavenly minded examples
Live in the light of your true citizenship