

# Stand Firm in Christ

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>; Steve Thiel

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Paul begins chapter three by warning the Philippians against those who put their confidence in their works. If anyone had reason to boast about accomplishments, it was Paul. But now he considers all such things as rubbish in comparison to knowing Christ. The goal is to be found in Christ, persevere in faith, and attain to the resurrection from the dead. To do so, we must follow Paul's example to press on in humility until we reach the prize of the upward call of God, which is the glory of seeing Christ face to face and spending all of eternity with Him. Begin this study by reading Philippians 1:27-2:30.

## **I. Rejoice in the Lord – Philippians 3:1-11**

- A. In what ways is “rejoicing in the Lord” a safeguard to our faith (3:1)?
- B. Why does Paul call the Judaizers “dogs”, “evildoers”, and “those who mutilate the flesh” (3:2)?
- C. What sort of things could Paul have boasted in with regard to the works of the Law (3:4-6)?
- D. How did Paul view these worldly things? In comparison, what was his deepest desire (3:7-10)?
- E. What things in life are you having a hard time “counting as loss” in order to know Christ more?

## **II. Persevere in the Lord – Philippians 3:12-21**

- A. What does it mean to “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God” (3:14)?
- B. How would you describe those who are “mature” (3:15)? What does that look like?
- C. How does Paul describe the Judaizers (3:18-19) and what's his purpose in bringing them up?
- D. Why do you think Paul reminds the Philippians that their “citizenship is in heaven” (3:20)?
- E. What will Christ do when He comes again (3:21)?

## **III. Stand Firm in the Lord – Application**

- A. What distracts you the most from keeping your eyes fixed completely on Christ's return?
- B. What things can you do to grow in “counting all this as rubbish in order to gain Christ”?
- C. How can you cultivate your relationship with the Lord that you might “know” Him better?