



PHILIPPIANS 3

Philippians 3:1-6 (NIV)

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

² Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh-- ⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

The question here is, “What can you do to make yourself more righteous or worthy before God?”

What made Paul think he was righteous before God in his old life?

What types of things do we tend to look at that might make us think we are more “righteous”?

How can mankind “serve” God?

Acts 17:24-25 (NIV)

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

What does Paul mean by the statement “he is not served by human hands”?

If God does not need our service, then what role does serving God play?



Philippians 3:7-11 (NIV)

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Paul discovered that any other pursuit, other than knowing Jesus, was meaningless. What sorts of things have you personally pursued in the past that you look back on as meaningless?

**What does Paul mean by wanting to know the power of Christ's resurrection?
What are some of the effects of Christ's resurrection in our life?**

We are **J** _____

We are **S** _____

We are **A** _____

We are **R** _____

We are **S** _____

We are **G** _____

What does he mean when he says "the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death"?



Philippians 3:12-16 (NIV)

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ *All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.*

Why does Paul say we are to forget what is behind us and strain toward what is ahead?

What did that mean, on a practical level, for Paul?

What are some things we have to forget and let go of?

In order for us to press on, we need to build DISCIPLINES into our life. That is what this course is all about. What does Paul mean when he says, “*Only let us live up to what we have already attained*”?

Philippians 3:20-4:1 (NIV)

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. ¹ Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

What drives us is our HOPE! We have a future waiting for us that is infinitely better than the present. What is it about this future hope that most excites you and keeps you going through difficult times?



Old Testament (39 books)		
History (17)	Poetry (5)	Prophecy (17)
The Law (5) Pentateuch	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs	Major Prophets (5) Large
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy		Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel
Other Historical books (12)		Minor Prophets (12) Small
Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther		Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

This week we encourage you to memorize the five Major Prophets.



ISAIAH – DANIEL

The Major Prophets are only called major because of their greater length.

- Isaiah:** Isaiah means “Salvation is of the Lord”. This writing is broken into two sections similar to the Bible. The first section of 39 chapters parallels the Old Testament and is filled with judgment against the nations for their sin. The second section of 27 chapters parallels the New Testament and declares hope and restoration through the coming Messiah.
- Jeremiah:** God calls Israel back to repentance before he brings judgment and sends them off into exile. They don’t listen and off they go. But even at this time, God still leaves hope of restoration and a whole new covenant to come.
- Lamentations:** Jeremiah laments about his people refusing to repent and as a result he watches the destruction of the temple and the city he deeply loves.
- Ezekiel:** Ezekiel prophesies among the Israelite exiles in Babylon. Despite the judgment that comes to the Israelites, God is still sovereign and in control. He shows Ezekiel through visions that the glory he has in heaven will be revealed on earth and people will once again turn back to him.
- Daniel:** The Jews in exile in Babylon are shown that even though they have been defeated God is still sovereign and in control over all nations. The first six chapters are in narrative form showing how God will still work on behalf of his people who trust him, even in enemy territory. The second part of the book is prophetic, revealing how God is at work over the nations and in his plan to bring about salvation.



Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 1</p> <p>Philippians 4:2-3 (NIV) <i>I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.</i></p>	<p>Is there another believer I am at odds with? What would Jesus want to say to me about that?</p> <p>Do I know other believers who have tensions with each other? How can I encourage them to be of one mind?</p> <p>Have I taken sides in a dispute instead of being part of the solution?</p> <p>If we are all going to live together in perfect peace in heaven, is it possible through the Holy Spirit to experience that peace in the family of God here?</p> <p>How can I be a peacemaker?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>

In the space below write out the 5 Major Prophets of the Bible.

- I** _____
- J** _____
- L** _____
- E** _____
- D** _____

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 2</p> <p>Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV) <i>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.</i></p>	<p>Do I find that I let circumstances affect my joy? What should be the source of my joy?</p> <p>How can I develop that perspective?</p> <p>In frustrating times, is my gentleness evident to all?</p> <p>Do I really believe the Lord is right there with me? If I do, does that change how I respond to circumstances?</p> <p>Do I get anxious about anything? Why? Do I realize that anxiety is actually a sin of distrusting God?</p> <p>If I learn to trust God, how will that affect my anxiety levels?</p> <p>Am I experiencing peace that goes beyond understanding in my life?</p> <p>Are my mind and heart at ease?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>



In the space below write out the next 5 books of the Bible.

I _____

J _____

L _____

E _____

D _____

To what category do these five books belong? _____



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PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 3</p> <p>Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV) <i>Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.</i></p>	<p>Do I allow my mind to focus on things that are not beneficial?</p> <p>Do I downplay the influence of books, movies, TV, internet, etc., in my life?</p> <p>Would I be comfortable watching some of these shows along with God?</p> <p>Are there things in my life that God would say need to be removed if I want to continue to grow into maturity?</p> <p>Does how I relate to others reflect these attributes?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>



In the space below write out the 5 Major Prophets of the Bible.

I _____
J _____
L _____
E _____
D _____

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PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Philippians 4:10-13 (NIV) <i>I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.</i></p>	<p>How can we show concern for others going through difficult times?</p> <p>Am I willing to give of my own resources to help someone in need?</p> <p>Have I learned the secret of being content in every circumstance?</p> <p>Am I able to say I am capable of experiencing any situation and still be content in Jesus Christ?</p> <p>Am I able to accomplish what God calls me to do in any circumstance?</p> <p>Is there anything that happens to me that is outside of God's permission and plan?</p> <p>How might that perspective change my reactions to life this week?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>



In the space below write out the 5 Major Prophets of the Bible.



Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Philippians 4:14-23 (NIV) <i>Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. ¹⁷ Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. ¹⁸ I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. ²¹ Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send greetings. ²² All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.</i></p>	<p>Do I really believe God will meet all my needs?</p> <p>How many ways can I think of right now where God has faithfully provided for me?</p> <p>Do I really not need to stress over anything?</p> <p>Do I really grasp that the full peace of Jesus Christ is available to me RIGHT NOW if I simply choose to trust God?</p> <p>I really need to praise God for...</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>

