

***Philippians 3*****MONDAY: Read Philippians 3**

What idea, verse or truth impresses you most in this chapter? Why? *Pray that you (& we) learn to depend on the Spirit for understanding and applying God's truths to our changing lives.*

**TUESDAY: Read Philippians 3:1-6**

To whom does Paul refer to in verse 2 as “dogs”? Why does circumcision (v5) give them away? Paul alludes to “true circumcision:” where does this happen for believers & who does it? How does “*relying on what Christ has done*” and “*putting no confidence in human effort*” help you understand spiritual circumcision? *Pray that the Spirit teaches you (us) all the truths & realities of living as new creatures.*

**WEDNESDAY: Read Philippians 3:7-11**

Verses 5-6 refer to all the means by which Saul considered himself to be righteous. What would you add to the list for yourself? Is valuing your worth apart from Jesus still difficult for you? Why? Why do you think that Paul associates Resurrection power with death and suffering? *Ask Spirit to teach you truths about Christ's character being formed in you to be experienced in real life situations.*

**THURSDAY: Read Philippians 3:12-16**

Read v12 substituting the words “*received/receive*” for achieved & possess. How does that affect your understanding of spiritual growth & progress? Verse 13 identifies Paul's secret to success: what is it? How would “forgetting the past and looking forward” affect your walk of faith with Jesus? *Spend some time thanking God for embracing us in His life & love, and making spiritual maturity available to us.*

**FRIDAY: Read Philippians 3:17-21**

To whom does Paul refer in verses 18,19? To what power does Paul refer to in v21? You and I are always examples for others: if they follow us, where will our example lead them? What example can you celebrate, and which must change? *Pray to follow the Spirit closely so that others can follow you.*

**SATURDAY: Read Philippians 3:1-21**

After dealing with the entire chapter, which concept is most significant to you? Identify one life-change that you'll ask Spirit to make in you as a result? *Ask the Spirit to enlarge your area of loving ministry!*

## **PHILIPPIANS 3 (NLT)**

### ***No Confidence in the Flesh***

**1)** Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. **2)** Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. **3)** For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, **4)** though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! **5)** I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. **6)** I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

**7)** I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. **8)** Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ **9)** and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. **10)** I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, **11)** so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

### ***Pressing toward the Goal***

**12)** I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. **13)** No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, **14)** I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. **15)** Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. **16)** But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

**17)** Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. **18)** For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. **19)** They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. **20)** But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. **21)** He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own (resurrection!), using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.