



## **KNOWING CHRIST**

Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

### ***JOY IN CHRIST***

**Philippians 3:1-21**

Inductive Discovery Lesson 16

In this chapter, Paul warns the Philippians not to put their confidence in the flesh. "Been there, done that," he says. "And I'm *not* going back."

Paul was a clear-sighted, straight-thinking man. He knew what to let go of, and what to pursue with all his energy. When it came to physical needs and desires, he said, "I have learned to be content." But when it came to spiritual needs and desires, he humbly declared it was way too soon to say he had arrived. This from a man in the twilight years of a life fully devoted to God! "*I'm pressing on,*" he wrote, "*grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ Jesus grasped me.*"

**Working Text for Philippians 3:1-21**  
New Living Translation (NLT)

**1** Whatever happens, dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord give you joy. I never get tired of telling you this. I am doing this for your own good.

**2** Watch out for those dogs, those wicked men and their evil deeds, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. **3** For we who worship God in the Spirit are the only ones who are truly circumcised. We put no confidence in human effort. Instead, we boast about what Christ Jesus has done for us. **4** Yet I could have confidence in myself if anyone could. If others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! **5** For I was circumcised when I was eight days old, having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish family that is a branch of the tribe of Benjamin. So I am a real Jew if there ever was one! What's more, I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. **6** And zealous? Yes, in fact, I harshly persecuted the church. And I obeyed the Jewish law so carefully that I was never accused of any fault.

**7** I once thought all these things were so very important, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. **8** Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ **9** and become one with him. I no longer count on my own goodness or my ability to obey God's law, but I trust Christ to save me. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. **10** As a result, I can really know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I can learn what it means to suffer with him, sharing in his death, **11** so that, somehow, I can experience the resurrection from the dead!

**12** I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. **13** No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be,

but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, **14** I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven. **15** I hope all of you who are mature Christians will agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. **16** But we must be sure to obey the truth we have learned already.

**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** Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and all they think about is 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 these weak mortal bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer everything, everywhere.



## OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

**Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources** such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

### Philippians 3:1-6

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

### Philippians 3:7-16

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

(continued on next page)

**Philippians 3:7-16** (cont.)

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

**Philippians 3:17-21**

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

## Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Philippians 3:1-21.

---

---

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“**gain**” (vs.7-8) \_\_\_\_\_

---

“**loss**” (vs.7-8) \_\_\_\_\_

---

“the **power** of His resurrection” (vs.10) \_\_\_\_\_

---

“the **fellowship** of His sufferings” (vs.10) \_\_\_\_\_

---



### **INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?***

**Look for a spiritual lesson.** Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

### **APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?***

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action.***

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

#### **Philippians 3:1-6**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

#### **Philippians 3:7-16**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

#### **Philippians 3:17-21**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

### **Summary**

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. \_\_\_\_\_

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



## Take a Closer Look

...I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value  
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...  
Philippians 3: 8a NAS

### ***Memorize God's Word***

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

---

---

---

---

### ***Meditate on God's Word***

**Look up.** What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

---

---

**Look around.** What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

---

---

**Look within.** What does this verse teach you about yourself?

---

---

**Look ahead.** Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

---

---

**Look alive!** Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

---

---



## ***Make God's Word Your Prayer***

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.

---

---

---

---



## **Something to Think About . . .**

The more you know about Christ,  
the less you will be satisfied with superficial views of Him.  
C.H. Spurgeon



## **God's Word Bearing Fruit**

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?  
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

---

---

---

---

---

**Message Notes:**

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or a message box. The left and bottom edges are irregular and torn, while the top and right edges are straight. The area is filled with light gray horizontal lines on a white background.





©2009 Leah Case. All Rights Reserved.