

Philippians 3

v1

"delight yourselves in the Lord and continue to rejoice that you are in Him."

- Finally, in closing... Find all your joy, fulfilment, satisfaction and delight in The Lord! Find all that you need in Him! Seek all that you desire and need in His Word and in His presence.
- Rejoice, sing praises, raise your hands in worship because you are in Jesus Christ! Rejoice that you are Born Again, that you are alive with Him and risen with Him; That you are seated with Him in heavenly places; That your name is written in The Lamb's Book of Life; That you are become sons and daughters of Almighty God!
- Jesus really does satisfy every need. He truly is the very source of life, joy, peace, satisfaction and fulfilment. But He can only be enjoyed as we seek Him, abide in Him and delight/glory in Him!

"To keep writing to you [over and over] of the same things is not irksome to me, and it is [a precaution] for your safety."

- Paul doesn't find it laborious to encourage the believers. He isn't tired of writing/speaking of the goodness of God.
- *2 Peter 1:12-13 So I intend always to remind you about these things, although indeed you know them and are firm in the truth that [you] now [hold]. [13] I think it right, as long as I am in this tabernacle (tent, body), to stir you up by way of remembrance.*
- There is joy in conversation about our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a pleasure to Paul to take the time to meditate on The Lord and to share His Gospel. He gave His life to the convening of this conversation and there was no better, no more wonderful subject to consider.
- But Paul's writing is also for their safety. With constant study and learning some topics can become familiar/repetitive. We can start to be complacent neglectful of and desensitised through pride and laziness. Jesus commanded that we remember often, not for His benefit but for ours! We need constant reminding! It is a safety and a life source.
- So, when we have opportunity to remind others, do not feel as though you are being repetitive, boring or redundant! It is a principal in scripture and it is vital to Salvation!

v2

"Look out for those dogs [Judaizers, legalists], look out for those mischief-makers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh."

- Look out for those who try to impose Jewish traditions and old covenant law! Beware of them and stay well clear of them!
- Beware of those who would try to impose circumcision on gentile believers!

v3

"For we are the true circumcision, who worship God in and by the Spirit of God and exult and glory and pride ourselves in Jesus Christ, and put no confidence or dependence [on what we are] in the flesh and on outward privileges and physical advantages and external appearances-"

- God will not be worshipped in traditions, repetitions or symbolic outward show! He despises it!
- *John 4:23-24 A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers. [24] God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (reality).*
- *1 Corinthians 1:29 ...no flesh should glory in his presence.*
- There will be no glory given to the works of the flesh. There will be no credit or value placed in any fleshly works.
- The true circumcision is one that is of the heart unto Jesus. It is a complete removal and disregard for the flesh. It is a turning form the flesh unto The Spirit and Truth of Jesus Christ! It is not works or outward show but a transformation of the inner being!

v7-8

"I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him [of perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly]. For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish/dung (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win (gain) Christ (the Anointed One)"

- There is nothing in this world that compares to Jesus. All of it is dung compared to knowing Him! All of it! There is nothing in this life so worthy of our time, attention, interest, affection and love. What can you hold up next to Him? What in your life could compete with knowing Jesus?
- Not fortune, not fame, not family, not comfort, not pleasure, not convenience, not achievement or success or recognition or influence or power or strength or good works or selflessness or discipline... It's all DUNG!!
- When we truly consider the greatness, majesty, love and awe of Jesus it is truly ridiculous to consider that anything else could be distracting! We start to see and understand the futility and depravity of sin. And yet... We foolish, weak and sinful creatures do in fact struggle to make Christ Lord and Master of our lives! But oh, to know Him... Oh, to know Him and the power of His resurrection life!
- Everything truly is dung compared to knowing Him. Take my comfort, take my pleasure, take my desires, take my family, take my health... Take it all but give me Jesus!!

v9

"And be found in him, not having my own righteousness, but possessing that [genuine righteousness] which comes through faith in Christ (the Anointed One), the righteousness of God, which comes from God by [saving] faith."

- Paul places no value on his own works. He has no interest or desire in establishing his own righteousness. He does not want to be found in, seen in or known by any other righteousness than God's, through Jesus Christ!
- When we consider the apostle Paul we must remember and understand that there was no good in his flesh. There was nothing inherently Spiritual, holy or good in Paul. He was not a special man... Our flesh will always seek to glory flesh and man often loves to lift up and glorify man. Let us be careful to always see The Lord in His men. See His love, His grace, His power and His might in weak, failed men.
- Paul's righteousness, his power, his authority and liberty were all in The Lord, through his faith in Jesus!
- *1 Corinthians 1:26-31 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: [27] But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; [28] And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought*

things that are: [29] That no flesh should glory in his presence. [30] But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: [31] That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

v10

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

- **Philippians 3:10 AMP** [For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death,
- Paul's whole life focus was to be better acquainted with Jesus. He didn't say this is an overarching life goal. It wasn't something that was happening in the background of His life... He said this meaning that every morning he woke, in every moment of that day, in every job, journey, discourse and effort he desired to know Jesus more! In EVERYTHING he sought to know Jesus; to fellowship with Him, to be conformed into His image and example!!
- Lord... I ask you for such a heart. Lord, may my heart and my whole life be so given to you as Paul's was. Teach me Lord to fellowship with you, to pray, to seek and and to live... Oh Lord may I be transformed into your image by the renewing of my mind!

v11

"That if possible I may attain to the [spiritual and moral] resurrection [that lifts me] out from among the dead [even while in the body]."

- To live eternally with God. To see Him face to face! To abide in His physical presence and glory in Him forevermore!!

v12-14

"this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

- Considering eternity it is important to lay aside those things which are now behind us. Forget the good to combat pride, forget the bad to combat shame. Keep your eyes forward and up, looking unto Jesus. Giving Him glory for all things, delighting in Him, seeking after Him, learning of Him...
- The mark, the prize that Paul is aiming for is the High Calling of God. Paul is not living just so he can get to heaven. He is not living for God so that he can have a clear conscience and be good living! This is far more than just being a self-labelled "Christian"!
- GILL: this calling is said to be "in Christ Jesus"; for both the purpose and grace, according to which men are called, are in him; the grace by which they are called, and which is implanted in them when called, is all in and from Christ; the blessings of grace, which they then in person enjoy, are spiritual blessings in him; and even the glory they are called unto is in his hands; not only the promise of eternal life, but that itself; the gift of it is with him, and it comes through him; yea, they are called by him, and said to be the called of Christ Jesus; now the prize of this calling, which is what God has prepared from all eternity, which Christ has in his hands, and will give to all his, and which is of immense richness and eternal duration, and shall be bestowed on all Christian runners, or true believers, is what the apostle was pressing for, pursuing after, with much difficulty, through great toil and labour, diligent searching of the Scriptures, frequent wrestling with God in prayer, and constant attendance on the means of grace, and ordinances of the Gospel.
- Paul, like Moses was looking to the giver of the reward! He was not serving for selfish gain! Paul served because he truly loved The Lord!
- **Hebrews 11:26** *He considered the contempt and abuse and shame of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect to the recompense [the rewarder] of the reward.*
- It is far too easy to read these words, consider them, and be so impressed... But I desperately desire The Lord to work in my life as He worked in Pauls. Lord... may I be a vessel that you can get glory from. May I know you as Paul does. Lord, have my heart and my mind. Lord, don't let me read and study these words for academics. May my heart be good soil for your word to take root, grow and establish itself in my conversation and conduct! I love You Lord! There truly is no other purpose or reason that is greater to live for than to know you!

v15-17

"Brethren, together follow my example, mark and observe those who live after the pattern we have set for you so you have an ensample."

- Paul is confident in setting himself forward as an example to follow. It is worth remembering that this is a time where The Gospel was new and there was much persecution. Paul was a blazing a trail and encouraging others to run after him. When we read this with our current culture we may think of Paul as proud or domineering, but in fact this is great tenderness on his part.
- Paul is acutely aware of the responsibility of such words. Not just for the practical outworking of lives here on earth but also of the Spiritual responsibility he will have to answer for before God. He is longing, with the heart of Christ, to bring these believers on in their faith and knowledge in Jesus. Would we live so carefully and set apart unto The Lord that we could encourage others to follow us??
- **1 Corinthians 11:1** *Pattern yourselves after me [follow my example], as I imitate and follow Christ (the Messiah).*
- If I cannot encourage others to imitate me in following Christ then there is a serious problem with my own walk. What am I doing if I cannot offer myself as an ensample??
- Note too that we are encouraged to follow examples. Follow those who have gone before; those who have walked in the way; those who know The Lord and have proved Him already. Watch these lives and learn from them. Don't be so cocky and proud as to think you have all the answers and need not that any teach you.

v18-19

"For there are many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears"

- He speaks of these people with tears, not with pride or spite.
- Paul had something that I don't yet have... I am not yet moved to tears for the souls of such people and for the shameful, broken lives they live without Christ. I do not weep for their souls. This is the heart and love of God being lived out through Paul.
- Lord... Please cause me to have such a heart. Lord I confess that I am not moved to tears for people who are going to hell. Lord I am so lacking in compassion, desperation, intercession.... Love.

"who walk (live) as enemies of the cross of Christ (the Anointed One)....their god is their stomach (their appetites, their sensuality) and they glory in their shame, siding with earthly things and being of their party."

- They live as enemies of the cross of Christ. They are enemies of dying to self. They offensively oppose the notion of giving up the root of self. They may label themselves "Christian", they may be church members, church attenders, they may be charitable and giving people, they may seem to be saintly and good, they may speak and teach biblical truths... But they have not surrendered.

- These are people who have chosen their path, they have chosen self over Christ. These are people on the broad road of shame, loss and pain, bound for eternal hell. Their lives full of sin and its consequences, bearing bad fruit and producing more death... with no hope in this life or the next...

- There is something wrong if this truth does not drive us to tears, if we are not brought to a desperate cry in intercession for these lives. It was the life of Christ in Paul that caused him to weep. That same life of Christ is still weeping for these lost souls but is that life seen in us?

v20

"But our citizenship is in Heaven, and from it also we earnestly and patiently await [the coming of] the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] Savior,"

- Citizens of heaven! What a wonder! What a glorious immigration! What an incredible Salvation we have!!

- *Romans 8:15-18 For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father! [16] The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God. [17] And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory. [18] [But what of that?] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time (this present life) are not worth being compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us and for us and conferred on us!*

- *2 Corinthians 6:18 And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.*

- Let it be that we walk as such. May it be that we walk as sons and daughters of God. Representing our Father King. We are princes and princesses in His heavenly Kingdom. If we truly believe that it will show in our conduct and conversation! Consider what it means to live and walk as adopted children of Almighty God!

v21

"Who will transform and fashion anew the body of our humiliation to conform to and be like the body of His glory and majesty, by exerting that power which enables Him even to subject everything to Himself."

- There is a day coming when we will be wholly and completely saved/transformed. No longer in this body of corruption and flesh but we will be given a new body!

- *1 Corinthians 15:51-54 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. [53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. [54] So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

- Oh what a precious and blessed hope we have to look forward to. When we are set free from the lusts of the flesh in our mortal bodies! What a wonderful hope!!