

Study Notes For Philippians

(Chapter Three)

Philippians 3:1 –

- Rejoice [“to be cheerful, i.e. calmly happy or well-off”; Strong’s # 5463] in the Lord (**Psalms 32:10-11**, **Matthew 5:10-12**, **Acts 5:40-42**, **Romans 5:1-2**, **Romans 12:15**, **Philippians 2:17-18; 28; 4:4**, **I Thessalonians 5:16**, **I Peter 1:3-6**, and **I Peter 4:13-14**).
- For discussion, consider how being able to rejoice in a messed up world (**John 16:33**) requires mental strength (**II Corinthians 10:3-5**).
- It is interesting to note that the Greek term translated “rejoice” in verse 1 carries also into how you greet a person. In fact, the word translated as “God speed” in **II John 1:10-11** [see 9-11] is the same word translated as rejoice here. The word is fitting as the faithful could never rejoice in iniquity (**I Corinthians 13:4-6**).
- Writing the same things was “safe” [sure; certain] for them (**I Timothy 4:6**, **II Peter 1:12-13**, and **II Peter 3:1-2**). Repetition is not always productive though (**Job 33:14**).
- Repetition was not grievous [slothful] for Paul (**Proverbs 18:9** and **Isaiah 56:10-12**).

Philippians 3:2 –

- Beware of dogs (**Proverbs 26:10-11**, **Matthew 7:6**, and **II Peter 2:20-22**).
- Beware of evil workers (**Matthew 7:15-23**, **Matthew 24:45-51**, **I Corinthians 15:33**, **II Timothy 4:14-15**, **Titus 1:10-14**, **Jude 1:3-4**, and **III John 1:9-11**).
- Beware of the concision [cut off; mutilated; likely referring to the fleshly circumcision]. Why? They’re fake (**Romans 2:28-29**, **Galatians 2:1-5**, and **Galatians 5:6**).

Philippians 3:3 –

- The spiritually circumcised (**Colossians 2:5-23**; cf. **Galatians 6:12-18**).
- Spiritually worshiping God (**John 4:19-24**).
- Those in whom have NO confidence in the flesh (**II Corinthians 1:12**, **Galatians 1:10**, **Galatians 5:17**, **I Peter 1:23-25**, and **I Peter 2:11**).

Philippians 3:4 –

- Paul could have had much confidence in the flesh (as he’ll establish in the following verses).
- If one is going to glory in the flesh they should realize that Paul would win that argument IF, and it is not, such were valid. He made a similar point to the carnally minded (**I Corinthians 3:1-3**; cf. **Romans 8:5-8** and **Matthew 16:21-23**) congregation in Corinth (**II Corinthians 11:12-12:1**).

Philippians 3:5 –

- In accordance with the Law of Moses, Paul was circumcised on the eighth day (**Leviticus 12:1-3**).

- o Such was for a reason (**Genesis 17:1-14**).
- o That reason ended in Christ (**Galatians 5:1-6** and **Galatians 6:15**).
- He was, carnally, prime stock (**Acts 22:1-3** and **II Corinthians 11:22**).
- Specifically, Paul was a descendant of the tribe of Benjamin (**Romans 11:1**).
- He was a chief among the Jews as a Pharisee (**Matthew 23:2** and **Acts 23:6**), which was only good in the sight of men (**Matthew 5:20**). That is the point – it only mattered in the sight of men. Which means what exactly (**Luke 16:15**)?

Philippians 3:6 –

- In accordance with the Law (**Deuteronomy 13:1-5**), as they incorrectly saw Jesus and Christians as false prophets (**John 9:1-29** and **Acts 6:9-11**), Paul persecuted the church (**Acts 9:1-2**, **Acts 9:13-14**, **Acts 22:4-5**, **Galatians 1:13-14**, and **I Timothy 1:12-16**).

Philippians 3:7 –

- Paul saw the value of being in Christ (**Matthew 13:44-46**) and gave up everything that caused him gain to be in Christ (**Matthew 16:24-27**, **Matthew 19:16-30**, **Luke 5:1-11**, **Luke 9:57-62**, and **Luke 14:26-33**).

Philippians 3:8 –

- A reasonable person would not doubt that Paul had a willing attitude to give up everything for Christ (**Acts 14:19-22** and **Acts 20:18-24**).
- Paul had a spiritual line of thought (**Romans 8:18**).
- He saw the value in the knowledge of Christ (**Psalms 119:97-105**, **Proverbs 23:23**, **Ephesians 3:17-19**, and **II Peter 1:3-4**).
- He counted all that he gave up for the Lord as but dung [any refuse, as the excrement [feces] of animals, offscourings, rubbish, dregs of things worthless and detestable] because he understood how little all things matter outside of Christ (**Proverbs 23:4-5**, **Luke 12:13-21**, **Hebrews 13:14**, and **I John 2:15-17**; cf. **James 4:13-14**).
- His goal was completely, wholly, only to win [gain] Christ (**I Corinthians 9:24-27**; cf. **John 14:6**).
- If you can win (**I Corinthians 15:57-58**), that means you can lose too (**II John 1:8**).

Philippians 3:9 –

- Of the most importance, Paul wanted to be in Christ. Consider all that means (**Romans 8:1**, **II Corinthians 5:17**, and **II John 1:9**).
- Not according to self-righteousness (**Proverbs 21:2**, **Luke 7:36-50**, **Luke 18:9-14**, **Romans 10:1-3**, **II Corinthians 10:12-18**, and **Galatians 6:3**).
- He then clarified that his own righteousness came from his reasoning through the Law of Moses. For discussion, consider how a person can twist Scriptures (**II Peter 3:15-17**) to justify their self-righteousness.
 - o That law was/is done away (**Luke 16:16**, **Romans 7:1-6**, **Ephesians 2:11-17**, **Colossians 2:12-14**, and **Hebrews 9:15-17**) and therefore was not the right source of righteousness (**John 1:17**).

- Righteousness is of God by faith (**Romans 1:15-17**) through Christ (**Romans 5:21**).

Philippians 3:10 –

- Paul's motive was to know the Lord. Think about what that means (**Jeremiah 9:6, John 8:19, John 17:1-3, Romans 1:18-32, I Corinthians 15:34, I Thessalonians 4:1-5, and I John 2:3-6**).
 - o Paul obviously “knew” the Lord, even in a way we will not until the resurrection (**Acts 9:1-6**).
 - o He had already obeyed Him initially, so this is not meaning that (**Acts 9:18**).
 - o This is not talking about generically knowing the Lord either, for all know Him (**Hebrews 8:7-13; cf. Colossians 1:23**).
 - o What this statement does show is that Paul, or anyone else, could biblically have a knowing relationship with the Lord and if not careful lose that relationship (**Jeremiah 2:29-32, Jeremiah 13:25, and II John 1:8**).
- Not knowing the Lord has consequences (**II Thessalonians 1:8-9**).
- He also wanted to know the power of the resurrection for it was/is the pillar of our faith (**I Corinthians 15:1-24**).
- He wanted to share in the sufferings of Christ (**Romans 8:17, II Corinthians 1:5, Colossians 1:24, II Timothy 2:11-12, I Peter 4:1-2, and I Peter 4:13-14**).
- He said, “being made conformable [become like] to his [Christ's] death”. Contextually, we can see that Paul's mindset was that the old self had died (**Romans 6:1-6**) as he was then living now with the Lord's mindset towards death (i.e. **John 16:28**).
 - o This is true in his readiness to die (**Philippians 1:21**).
 - o This is true in his readiness to die sacrificially (**Acts 20:20-24** and **I Thessalonians 2:8; cf. I John 3:16**).

Philippians 3:11 –

- By ANY means (inferred lawful and expedient means – **Acts 24:16** and **I Corinthians 10:24-33**) he wanted to attain [arrive at] the resurrection (**Romans 6:22, Romans 8:11-13, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, and I Peter 1:3-9**).

Philippians 3:12 –

- The fact is, even the salvation of the righteous is not yet fully realized (**Acts 14:22**).
 - o While you can say that you are saved / redeemed (**I Corinthians 1:18** and **Galatians 3:13**)...
 - o ...You have to realize that salvation is not yet fully come (**Romans 5:9-10, Romans 6:22, Hebrews 9:28, I Thessalonians 5:8-9, and I Peter 1:9**).
- The finish line is still ahead, so we have to keep running (**I Corinthians 9:24-27**).
 - o Don't get caught looking back at your body of work and think, “man I have accomplished some great things for God” (**Job 22:2-3** and **Galatians 6:3; cf. I Corinthians 15:9-10**).
 - o There CANNOT be a stopping point along our journey (**Hebrews 3:1-14**).

- o By Paul saying he was not already perfect, he was speaking of not having completed the work just as the word was translated “finish” in **John 4:34**. Thus, he had not apprehended [lay hold on] eternal life yet.
- o Realize, again, we can lose it all (**Ezekiel 33:7-20**, **Hebrews 10:32-38**, and **II John 1:8**).

Philippians 3:13 –

- Again, the emphasis of not having apprehended [take; attain] the goal yet (**Jude 1:21**).
- At the end of his life Paul’s perceptive was different (**II Timothy 4:6-8**).
- Now, instead of looking back (**Luke 9:57-62**, **II Corinthians 5:17**, and **Philippians 3:8**), focus on the goal (**Hebrews 12:1-3**).

Philippians 3:14 –

- Press toward the finish line (**John 4:31-36**, **II Corinthians 4:8-5:1**, **II Corinthians 5:9-11**, and **Revelation 3:21**).
- It is interesting to consider the word translated “press” [Strong’s #1377]. It is most often [28 x’s] translated “persecute [ed; ing, etc.]” (ex. **Matthew 5:10**, **Matthew 5:11**, **Matthew 5:12**, **Matthew 5:44**, etc.). Therefore, think of how “press” is really a hardened term showing the effort made toward finishing.

Philippians 3:15 –

- As many “as be” [not “will be”] perfect is the statement. Thus, we are not talking about “being perfect” in the sense of completing this lifetime (v. 12). We are talking about “perfect” as it applies to all faithful Christians (**Matthew 5:48** and **Colossians 1:28; 4:12**).
- We should be able to, outside of his Apostleship and choices as it applied to his liberties, think like Paul did concerning the life to come as well as other spiritual matters (**I Thessalonians 1:6**). **More on this in verse 17.*
- Therefore, the thinking presented in this context is the thinking of all faithful Christians. We all are looking forward in anticipation of the reward to come (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** and **II Peter 3:10-14**).
- If God wants you to think in another process of thought He would have revealed such to us (**II Timothy 3:14-17**).

Philippians 3:16 –

- They had already attained [arrived at] unified thought, but needed to stay the course (**Proverbs 4:25-27**, **II Thessalonians 2:15**, **Titus 3:8**, **Hebrews 10:23**, and **Revelation 3:11**).
- Walk by the same rule (**I Corinthians 4:17**, **Ephesians 4:1-6**, and **Colossians 2:5-8**).
- Mind [think] the same thing (**Romans 15:5-6**, **I Corinthians 1:10**, **II Corinthians 13:11**, **Philippians 1:27**, **Philippians 2:2**, and **I Peter 3:8**).
- When we get to chapter four, we will see that two people had a problem here in Philippi with being like-minded (**Philippians 4:2**).

Philippians 3:17 –

- Follow the example of Paul (**I Corinthians 4:16**, **II Thessalonians 3:7-9**, and **Hebrews 13:7**; cf. **Acts 2:42**), with a qualifier (**I Corinthians 11:1**).
- Mark (take note of) others who follow the pattern (**Psalms 37:37**, **Titus 2:1-8**, **James 5:10-11**, and **III John 1:12**).

Philippians 3:18 –

- Many (**Matthew 7:13-14** and **II Peter 2:1-3**) are enemies of the Lord (**Luke 11:23**, **Acts 13:6-12**, and **II John 1:9-11**).
- Such is a reason to weep (**Psalms 119:136**, **Jeremiah 13:17**, **Luke 19:41-42**, and **Romans 9:1-3**).
- Understanding also that those who are the Lord's enemies, as we all were when we were in the world, can be converted (**Romans 5:8-11**).

Philippians 3:19 –

- The enemies of the Lord face a destructive end (**Matthew 7:21-23**, **Matthew 25:41**, **II Corinthians 11:13-15**, **II Thessalonians 1:7-9**, **Hebrews 10:26-31**, **II Peter 3:10-14**, and **Revelation 21:8**).

Philippians 3:20 –

- Our conversation [community; citizenship] is in Heaven (**II Corinthians 5:1**, **Ephesians 2:19-22**, **Colossians 3:1-4**, **Hebrews 3:1-6**, **Hebrews 12:22-23**, and **Hebrews 12:28**).
- We are looking there for the coming of our Lord (**Acts 1:9-11**, **I Thessalonians 1:10**, and **I Thessalonians 4:16-17**).

Philippians 3:21 –

- The changing of our bodies when the Lord returns (**I Corinthians 15:34-58**).
- Our body will become like His (**I John 3:1-2**).
- By His authority (**John 5:25-29**).