

Last week Paul reminded us in Phil. 3:1-11 that our confidence doesn't lie in our talents, abilities, whether we grew up in the church, or how good we are. If there was anyone, during the times of the early church, who had reason to be "confident in the flesh" both in a spiritual and worldly sense, it was Paul. And yet, he said to us once again that our hope is never in what we can do, but in what Christ has already done. We also discussed why Paul counted all as loss compared to knowing Christ!

In this season of uncertainty and lots of change, it is no accident that the Lord has us studying the book of Philippians. We have been equipped, through His Word, for such a time as this!

REJOICE...not in your present suffering, but in the God who never changes and always provides for His children! This week we will learn how/why we should press on towards the goal of knowing Christ!

1. Let's begin by reading Philippians 3:12-4:1.

2. Go back and re-read the passage, marking the following words/phrases:

Paul

Resurrection from the dead

Philippians

Jesus Christ

God

Enemies

3. Looking at verses 11-12, what was Paul hoping to attain?

4. What do we understand "resurrection of the dead" to mean?

5. In verses 12-13, Paul reminds the Philippians that his efforts are not something he is able to do on his own. What does he say is the reason he is able to continue striving?

6. What four things did he continue to do?

a.

b.

c.

d.

7. Verse 15 is important! Paul tells the Philippians that if they are mature, they will think/act similarly to him. Their goal should be the same. What does he say to those believers who “think otherwise”? What comfort/truth does this verse & John 7:17 point us to? Who does the work of revealing Truth to us?

8. We just learned that it is a work of God, through the Holy Spirit, that reveals Truth to us. What responsibility does Paul say we have, according to verse 16?

9. Last week we learned about the three groups of people Paul warns the Philippians to look out for. (See verse 2). He goes into a little more detail in verse 18 about who these people are. What does he call them and what is his response to their condition?

Philippians

Winter/Spring 2020

Week 11: Philippians 3:12-4:1

10. Verses 19-21 point to the characteristics of the “enemies of the cross of Christ” in contrast to those who believe. List below.

Enemies of the Cross

Those who Believe

11. Finally, Paul commands the Philippians, in light of all he has written in Chapter 3, to do what? Also make a note of the ways that he identifies with the Church. How does he describe them in 4:1?

PHILIPPIANS 3

- 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.
- 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
- 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.
- 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.
- 17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.
- 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
- 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
- 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

PHILIPPIANS 4

- 1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.