

Book of Philippians Study #6

Last time you met you committed to memorizing Philippians 2:21. How did you do?



Before you study today's passage - a little background first...

In **Philippians 3:2-3**, Paul talks about certain people who were telling the Philippians that they had to be *circumcised* to become Christians. Remember that God used circumcision with the Jews in the Old Testament as a sign of their covenant (deep commitment) with God. However, after Christ's death & resurrection, followers of Christ no longer need outward signs of their commitment to God – now they have the Holy Spirit as a sign of their devotion to God. That is why Paul says that Christians are to *put no confidence in the flesh*.

Paul then goes on to show that he had accomplished a great deal as a Jew, and used to be very proud of those accomplishments. It also shows that he has the “right” to explain how Jews are now to view their relationship with God. He also realizes that all of these accomplishments are insignificant in comparison to his relationship with Christ.

NOW read Philippians 3:1-11. Look at verses 7-8. What things in your life compete with your relationship with Christ?



P.S. The word for **rubbish** in the original Greek is closer to the word *dung* or *poop* in our language ☺

Now read **3:12-14**. What do you think **this** is in verse 12?

Are Christians called to be **perfect**? Why or why not? Look up **Matthew 5:48** as well.

Other Bibles translate the word *perfect* as *mature* or *complete*. How does that help you understand this section?

Read 3:15-21. People who are *enemies of the cross of Christ* have their minds on earthly things. People who love & follow Jesus have their *citizenship in heaven*. To live as citizens of heaven will cause us to feel **out of place** at times in this world – as the saying goes, *like a square peg trying to fit into a round hole*. Can you think of some ways that might happen? Pick one thing to pray about.

Psst... if there's time... explore the meaning of **verse 10**. Can you say this verse yourself? Do you truly want to *know Christ*? How can you keep going deeper?