



LIVING THE GOSPEL TOGETHER
A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS

SESSION 6

Knowing Christ Above All

Text: Philippians 3:1–11

Focus: Living the gospel together begins with shared faith and prayer

Big Idea: Living the gospel together means valuing Christ above all else and placing no confidence in human achievement or religious performance

Recap of Session 5

In Session 5, we saw how the gospel is **worked out** in daily obedience and faithful service. Paul showed that God's saving work produces visible fruit: a church that shines as lights, resists grumbling, and honors sacrificial servants.

Session 6 now turns inward—to the **heart of the believer**—and addresses a subtle but dangerous threat to gospel life: **confidence in the flesh**. Paul calls the church to examine what they trust, boast in, and build their identity upon.

Introduction: (Pastoral & Contextual)

Philippians 3 opens with a warning. Paul is deeply pastoral but unmistakably urgent. The danger he confronts is not outright rejection of Christ, but **adding something to Christ**—especially religious credentials, moral effort, or spiritual achievement.

This passage is intensely personal. Paul uses his own life as an example, showing that even the most impressive religious résumé is worthless compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. For a church seeking unity and joy, nothing is more destructive than misplaced confidence—and nothing is more unifying than a shared treasure in Christ alone.

In-depth Exegesis of Philippians 3:1–11

Verses 1–3 – The True People of God

“Rejoice in the Lord... we are the circumcision...”

- Paul grounds joy not in circumstances, but in the Lord.
- He warns against false teachers who trust in external markers.
- True worship is by the Spirit, boasting only in Christ.

Theological Insight: True identity before God is spiritual, not external or ethnic.

Verses 4–6 – Paul's Religious Credentials

Paul lists his background:

- Circumcised on the eighth day
- Of Israel, tribe of Benjamin
- A Pharisee
- Zealous, law-keeping, respected

From a human perspective, Paul had every reason for confidence.

Theological Insight: Even the best human righteousness cannot secure standing before God.

Verses 7–8 – Radical Revaluation

“Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”

- Paul uses accounting language: profit and loss.
- What once defined him is now worthless.
- Knowing Christ is described as surpassing worth.

Theological Insight: Conversion involves a complete reordering of values.



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In-depth Exegesis of Philippians 3:1–11 Contd.

Verses 9–11 – Righteousness and Resurrection Hope

Paul desires:

- A righteousness from God, not the law
- Union with Christ
- Fellowship in His sufferings
- Resurrection life

Faith unites believers to Christ in both suffering and glory.

Theological Insight: Justification by faith leads to transformed desire and future hope.

Study Questions

1. Why does Paul begin this section with a call to rejoice?

2. What does Paul mean by “confidence in the flesh”?

3. Why does Paul list his religious achievements?

4. How does Paul redefine gain and loss?

5. What does it mean to “know Christ” beyond information?

6. Why is righteousness by faith essential to the gospel?

7. How does union with Christ include both suffering and hope?

8. What modern forms of “confidence in the flesh” exist today?

9. How does this passage promote unity in the church?

10. What would it look like for Christ to be your greatest treasure?



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Key Doctrines Highlighted

- Justification by faith alone
- Union with Christ
- Sanctification through suffering
- Resurrection hope
- True Christian identity

Personal Application

- Identify what you are most tempted to trust for spiritual confidence.
- Confess areas where achievement or morality has replaced grace.
- Recommit to finding identity and worth in Christ alone.

Personal Challenge:

What would you have to let go of to say honestly, “Christ is enough”?

Reflective Practice

Journaling Prompt:

- What gains has God asked you to count as loss?
- How has knowing Christ reshaped your desires?

Meditative Exercise:

- Slowly read Philippians 3:8–9.
- Replace “Paul” with your own name in prayerful reflection.

Points for Prayer

Personal Prayer

- *Deeper desire to know Christ*
- *Freedom from self-reliance*

Church Prayer

- *Unity rooted in grace, not performance*
- *Christ-centered worship and identity*

Mission Prayer

- *Clear gospel witness centered on Christ alone*
- *Believers willing to suffer for Christ’s sake*

Closing Summary

Living the gospel together means laying aside all confidence in ourselves and treasuring Christ above everything else.