

# Philippians at Home

## Week Five: Philippians 3:1-21

Our study in Philippians brings us to chapter 3, a beloved chapter filled with beautiful doctrines and Paul's passionate desire to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. The joy of knowing Christ is possible because Jesus has justified us, sanctifies us, will complete his work in us, and none of this is from ourselves. It is a gift of God through the work of Jesus Christ!

### Prepare

Find a comfortable seat, grab a Bible and a device to access online content, and ask the Holy Spirit to work in your heart and mind through your study of Philippians.

### Watch & Listen

The last section in Philippians 3 declares our citizenship is in heaven which inevitably raises the question: "What is heaven?"

- Watch this [video from the Bible Project](#) to see what the Bible says about heaven.

### Read & Discuss

#### Scripture Reading One: [Philippians 3:1-11](#).

- Paul lists his achievements, both earned and inherited, that many religious Jews thought would give Paul right standing before God. What were they (verse 4-6)?
- In what ways are you tempted to count your qualities and accomplishments as more valuable than your righteousness in Christ? How does this affect your joy in Christ?
- Salvation is more than gaining mercy, salvation is gaining Christ (verse 8). What does this mean?
- Imagine that a friend relies on her good works to put her in right standing before God. And, humanly speaking, she does lead an ethically superior life full of good works! Using Philippians 3:9 as part of your answer, how would you correct this assumption?
- Paul expresses the goal of Christian living: "to know him," "the power of his resurrection," "participation in his sufferings," and to "become like him in his death" (verse 10 and 11). Are any of these phrases surprising? Why or why not?

#### Scripture Reading Two: [Philippians 3:12-21](#).

- Paul confesses his imperfect pursuit of Christ, and yet, he presses on, why?
- What imagery does Paul use to describe the nature of Christian growth (verses 12-14)? How is this imagery fitting? What is the prize?
- Paul encourages the Philippians to imitate his example (verse 17). Do you have a role model like Paul to imitate? What sets this person apart as a helpful Christian role-model?

- Paul lists 5 traits of “enemies of the cross of Christ” in verses 18 and 19. What are these traits exposing, and how have you seen these play out in your life and the world around you?
- Philippians 3:20 says our citizenship is in heaven. Paul encourages the church in Philippi to give their primary allegiance to Jesus. The same principle is true, today. Biblical scholar, Tom Wright, describes the body of Christ as a colony of heaven. We are bringing our mother country’s (heaven’s) culture and rule to the colonies. How do we live out our Christian faith as citizens of God’s kingdom and as citizens within the kingdoms of this world? What could we do better?

## **Apply & Pray**

- Reflect on the implications of Philippians 3:1-21 for your own walk with Christ. How does this text help you to praise God more, repent of a sin, encourage you to take the next step in discipleship, or fill you with hope in God’s promises?
- Take a moment to write your reflections in a journal and pray over a few of these key things God is teaching you.