



GLC  PRESENTS:

JOY FOR ALL SEASONS

PHILIPPIANS: A BOOK STUDY

SESSION 4

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OUTLINE

- A. Christ our Life. Chapter One
- B. Christ our Mind. Chapter Two
- C. Christ our Goal. Chapter Three
- D. Christ our Strength. Chapter Four

A. Christ our Goal

Our faith has always been based on the gospel message. The good news about the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- There is no greater person.
- There is no greater theme.

He is the central theme of both the Old and New Testaments.

Christ is the central theme of the whole Bible

Old Testament	We get to know Him prophetically .
Gospels	We get to know Him historically .
Acts – Jude	We get to know Him theologically .
Revelation	We get to know Him eschatologically .

*“For I determined to know nothing among you
except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:2

So the heart and soul of all our instruction should always be the Lord Jesus Christ.

- In Chapter One we learned that He needs to be our entire life and we must learn to follow Him with a single mind.
- In Chapter Two we learned that He needs to be our mind and we must learn to follow Him with a submissive mind.
- In Chapter Three we will learn that He needs to be our goal and we must learn to follow Him with a spiritual mind.

Paul knows that if our life and our mind truly belong to Christ then our desires and aspirations will be like His as well.

We will see these things clearly revealed in:

- Our faith
- Our love
- Our hope

1. Christ the Goal of our Faith. (Philippians 3:1)

The Greek word translated “finally” is often used as a transition to another subject as well as a conclusion. Here it is better translated “furthermore”.

The word “finally” is used for the remainder of the harvest and Paul is saying, there is more to discuss, so let’s move on to what remains.

Another theme running through the New Testament is the difference between the true and the false believer.

- Matthew 7:15-23, 13:1-52
- Matthew 3:7-12
- Acts 20:28-31, Galatians 1:6-9
- 2 Peter 2
- 1 & 2 John
- James

In verse two Paul zeros in on a specific group that were infiltrating the Church and causing great harm. **(Philippians 3:2)**

- He calls them dogs.
- Evil workers.
- False circumcision.

The term “false circumcision” is important. Paul uses a play on words:

- The word for circumcision is “peritome”.
- The word Paul uses for these evil men is “katatome”.

When God ordered the Jews to circumcise their babies He meant it to be an outward mark or symbol of an inward reality.

“Self-righteousness exclaims, “I will not be saved in God’s way; I will make a new road to heaven; I will not bow before God’s grace; I will not accept the atonement which God has wrought out in the person of Jesus; I will be my own redeemer; I will enter heaven by my own strength, and glorify my own merits.”

The Lord is very wroth against self-righteousness. I do not know of anything against which His fury burneth more than against this, because this touches Him in a very tender point, it insults the glory and honor of His Son Jesus Christ.”

CHARLES SPURGEON

Paul says they are not really circumcised at all because they only bear an outward mark which is really just a mutilation.

(Philippians 3:3)

The true believer knows that they are spiritually bankrupt, they mourn over their sin, humble themselves and experience genuine hunger and thirst for God's righteousness.

(Matthew 5:3–6)

So Paul gives us three things that separate the religious from the truly saved or righteous:

- Worship

- Salvation

- Genuine Repentance

Remember the Philippians were Gentiles and these false teachers were Jews or converts that had believed their false gospel. So Paul leans on his Jewish Testimony to destroy their arguments. (Philippians 3:4–6)

Religious Credits That Cannot Save!

Circumcised the 8th day	Rituals, rites, ceremonies cannot save you.
A true Israelite.	Race, percentage cannot save you.
Of the tribe of Benjamin.	Rank, nobility cannot save you.
Hebrew of Hebrews	Tradition cannot save you.
Pharisee.	Religion cannot save you.
Persecutor of the Church.	Sincerity cannot save you.
Blameless law-keeper.	Self-righteousness cannot save you.

Having laid out his considerable religious credentials Paul now tells them what he thinks about them using accountancy terms. **(Philippians 3:7)**

**Paul is saying, I took religion to the highest level:
God was not impressed!**

In Philippians 3:8, Paul takes his argument even further to include everything else people trust in for salvation.

Under grace several wonderful things have happened to us that far outweigh anything dead religion can purchase:

a. A New Relationship. (Philippians 3:8)

Paul says I gave up everything that used to be gain to me so that I could enter into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

b. A New Righteousness. (Philippians 3:9)

- Romans 3:19-20
- Romans 10:1-3
- Salvation is all about Righteousness

2. Christ the Object of our Love.

For Paul salvation was far more than forgiveness for sins and the free gift of God's righteousness.

- The Lord Jesus Christ was his first love.
- He longed to be like Him.
- He longed to be with Him.
 - Colossians 3:16
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 - Galatians 5:16-25

a. Paul's goal in life was to know Him. (Philippians 3:10a)

Knowing Christ in a deeper and more intimate way became the supreme goal of his life.

b. Paul's goal in life was to be like Him. (Philippians 3:10b)

The Christian life is not just difficult it is impossible and it requires the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

- Ephesians 2:4-5

- Ephesians 3:16-17

c. Paul's goal in life was to be with Him. (Philippians 3:11)

Paul longed to be with His first love. He hated his weakness and his sin and longed to be delivered from this life. (Romans 7:24)

Notice the progression of verses 9-11:

- Justification
- Sanctification
- Glorification

**To give up all that you are for all that He is,
this is the gospel according to Jesus.**

3. Christ the Focus of our Hope.

As we listen to Paul pour out his heart we might wrongly assume that he has reached some of kind of perfection. So he is quick to point out that he still has a long way to go.

a. It requires the right perspective. (Philippians 3:12a)

b. It requires the right effort. (Philippians 3:12b)

c. It requires the right focus. (Philippians 3:13-14)

d. It requires the right attitude. (Philippians 3:15)

e. It requires the right stamina. (Philippians 3:16)

f. It requires the right examples. (Philippians 3:17)

To know the Lord Jesus Christ and be like Him is our goal in this life and our prize in the next.

Sadly though, many leaders are simply not worth following at all. Don't be surprised by this, it was the same in Paul's day. **(Philippians 3:18)**

Paul warns us continually about these men and yet so many follow them today. **(Philippians 3:19)**

- They are going to hell.

- 2 Peter 2:2-3

- Jude 4

- 1 John 2:15

g. It requires the right mindset. (Philippians 3:20-21)

Paul has already used the illustrations of an accountant and an athlete. Now in these final two verses he refers to himself as an alien.

Paul reminds them that they should be living every day in expectation of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Luke 10:20
- Matthew 23:9
- Acts 7:55
- 2 Corinthians 5:8
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-18
- Matthew 6:20-21
- 2 Timothy 4:8
- Our prize is there.

“who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:21

This was Paul’s ultimate prize, to be make like Christ:

Christ our Goal

v.1–11	As an Accountant	“I count” To know Him Justification	Philippians 3:8
v.12–16	As an Athlete	“I press” To be like Him Sanctification	Philippians 3:12
v.17–21	As an Alien	“I wait” To be with Him Glorification	Philippians 3:20

