



WEEK 4 DEVOTIONAL

WORTHY: Living Your Best Life NOW

RECEIVE

Slowly. Prayerfully, read and/or listen to Philippians 3:1–14 in two different translations: NIV and NLT. Before and after each reading, pray to ask the Spirit of Christ to shape you through what you are reading.

REFLECT

1. Who are the “dogs,” “evildoers” and “those who mutilate the flesh”? How are they contrasted with the Philippians?
2. Consider the word “rejoice.” What does it mean to you? Choose three different words that have the same idea. What do you “rejoice” in?
3. Paul called us to “rejoice in the Lord.” His very next thought is to “Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.” How might the influence of these people keep the Philippians from rejoicing in the Lord?
4. What does it mean to “put no confidence in the flesh”? Why do you think Paul gives himself as an example of this? What does Paul put his confidence in now?
5. Look over Paul’s credentials. What “gain” was he deriving from them? Why does he now see them as losses?
6. What does it mean to be “found in” Christ? How is this related to being righteous?
7. Paul says the ultimate purpose of being righteous is so he can know Christ and the power of His resurrection. What does he mean by these things?

8. Some people argue that if you are assured eternal life there is no more motivation to persevere in a life of serving Christ. Yet here Paul indicates that his motivation to persevere is just because “Christ Jesus has made me his own.” How does this work? Why might the assurance that Paul belongs to Christ motivate him to “strain forward” toward heaven?
9. What things are you hesitant to lose or count as rubbish for the sake of Christ? Why? How might this relate to putting confidence in the flesh? How do you see yourself putting confidence in your achievements?
10. How does the righteousness from God achieve what you are trying to achieve by your own efforts?
11. How might your life look different if you believe that Christ’s righteousness was enough for you in each moment of your life?

RESPOND

Take a prayer walk this week. As you walk, talk with Jesus about what you could change in your current circumstances that would leave more room for the Holy Spirit in your life. Ask Jesus to reveal what you need to start considering “a loss,” “worthless,” and “dung” so you can know Jesus more. After your walk, journal what you discern Jesus is speaking to you.

RESOURCES

- Great, short video [overview of Philippians by The Bible Project](#).

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 3:1–14 | New International Version

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.² Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh.³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:1–14 | New Living Translation

Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.² Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved.³ For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort,⁴ though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!⁵ I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.⁶ I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.⁷ I once thought these things were valuable, but

now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! ¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.



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