



Studies in Philippians: Bearing the Mark of Joy

The Joy of Finishing Well – Part One
Run with Confidence
Philippians 3:1-11

Sermon in a Sentence

Adopt the Mindset of a Finisher Place Your Confidence in Christ.

Not in Religious External3:1-4

Not in an Impressive Pedigree3:5-7

But in Knowing Christ.....3:8-11

Live It!

Declare Spiritual Bankruptcy

Pursue Knowing Christ

Partner in the Gospel through Prayer

Heavenly Father, Forgive me for placing confidence in the flesh, in my religious self. Set me free from thinking that being born into the right family, attending the right church, knowing right doctrine, or fulfilling the right list of dos and don'ts will save me. I place these wrong assumptions on the curb to be hauled away as garbage. My desire is to know You. I want to run the race between here and heaven by faith clothed in Christ's righteousness, knowing the power of His resurrection, sharing in His death that I might share in His life. May I finish well for Your glory and the good of all people, Amen.

Open It!

What is a unique or standout qualification, accomplishment, or credential on your resume?

Read It!

Philippians 3:1-11

Consider It!

God instituted circumcision with the family of Abraham to mark his descendants as a covenant people (Genesis 17:10-12). Circumcision became an issue of controversy in the church as non-Jews, that is Gentiles came to faith in Jesus Christ.

What was the ruling of the leaders of the church on this controversy (Acts 15:1-30)?

How was this controversy affecting the church at Philippi (3:1-2)?

Was bearing the external mark of circumcision a guarantee of salvation (Deut. 30:6; Rom. 2:28-29; Gal. 6:15)? Why or why not?

What religious experiences do people but false hope in today?

What was Paul's religious pedigree (3:4-6)? What would be an equivalent pedigree for today's Christian?

Why do we tend to base our worth as Christians on our performance?

Why did Paul view these traits or accomplishments as "rubbish" (3:8)?

What did Paul value (3:9-11)? Why?

How does Paul's commitment to Christ serve as an example for you?