

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**By Grace for Glory (Pt. 1)***Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 3:1-3

## REVIEW

Paul wrote Philippians for the sake of unifying the church in the enjoyment and advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Unity in the gospel births communal joy that results in the advance of the gospel to the lost. As we partner together in the gospel, the result is **joy made complete**.

In 2:25-30, Paul speaks of love for and Epaphroditus and his desire to send him back to the Philippians church. Epaphroditus as a “short-term missionary” to Paul from the church in Philippi. He was sent by the church, risking his life, to minister to Paul’s needs. In this passage we see Paul, Epaphroditus and the Philippian church seeking not their own interests, but the interest of Christ.

## APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 2:25-30

Consider practical ways to apply the text of Scripture. Think about implications at the individual and corporate level remembering God’s word shapes our beliefs and our behaviors.

1. Read Philippians 2:12-30
2. Discuss the various “sending” aspects present in 2:19-30. Why is sending such an important aspect of seeking the interest of Christ? Pray for those Restoration Church has (and will) send.
3. In verse 25, Paul uses five descriptors/titles for Epaphroditus. Briefly discuss how each one are an important aspect of seeking Christ’s interests and not our own.
4. Describe Paul’s relationship with Epaphroditus and the Philippian church? How do you see similar relationships inside the life of Restoration Church?
5. What is Epaphroditus’ attitude toward his church family? Can you provide any examples of this inside our church body?

## STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 3:1-3

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Philippians 3:1-11
2. Paul begins this section by telling the Philippians to “rejoice in the Lord.” Based on what follows, why does Paul begin this way?
3. Also, this is the first time Paul uses the phrase “rejoice *in the Lord*.” What does the “in the Lord” tell us about the occasion and source of our joy?
4. Notice the repetition of “Look out...” What does this mean? How does this repetition help you interpret these verses?

5. Why is Paul warning about the evildoers who mutilate the flesh? Who are they, what are they doing, and why are they dangerous?
6. What is circumcision? Read Genesis 17:9-14.
7. What is the “real circumcision” Paul is taking about in verse 3? Read Deuteronomy 30:6, Romans 2:28-29, Colossians 3:11-13.
8. What does “worship by the Spirit of God” mean? Read John 4:23-26.
9. What does it mean to “glory in Christ Jesus”?
10. What does it mean to “put no confidence in the flesh”? Read Galatians 2:15-21.
11. What does it look like for us to “worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh”? What struggles or temptations do you have in relating to God in this way?
12. General Bible study questions:
  - a. What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
  - b. What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
  - c. How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
  - d. How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** What areas of your life are marked more by self-interest than the interests of Christ? Where do you see God’s grace in seeking the interest of Christ above your own?