

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

By Grace for Glory (Pt. 2)*Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 3:4-11

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 3:1-3, Paul reminds us of the importance of regularly rehearsing the gospel. We need to be on the look out for those who promote false gospels all the while remembering the true gospel is one of grace alone by faith alone in Christ alone. Therefore, we put no confidence in the flesh, but rest solely upon the finished work of Jesus Christ.

APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 3:1-3

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 3-11.
2. What's the danger in assuming the gospel but never articulating it? How do those dangers help us understand Paul's willingness and desire to "write the same things" to the Philippians? How is this safe (or good) for them?
3. Why is it important to have a category for false gospels? What marks does Paul give for the true gospel?
4. How can we humbly (not arrogantly!) address teaching that encourages confidence in the flesh and undermines the true gospel?

STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11

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. Re-read Philippians 3:3-11.
2. Identify the reasons Paul has reasons for confidence in the flesh. Discuss how each thing he lists would be impressive to his audience.
3. Why does Paul go on to detail his impressive credentials?
4. What are the impressive credentials we might rely on today to impress God? To impress others?
5. In what ways do you struggle with putting confidence in the flesh?
6. In verse 7, what gain is Paul talking about?
7. What does it mean to "count everything as loss"?

8. What is Paul's driving motivation for counting everything as loss?
9. What does the "surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" mean? Why does Paul consider knowing Christ to be worth more than anything?
10. What are we tempted to value more than Christ? How can we cultivate a heart that considers everything as loss compared to Christ?
11. How does verse 9 compare with "put no confidence in the flesh"?
12. What does it mean to be "found in Christ"? What's the relationship of righteousness and faith?
13. To what does the "power of his resurrection" refer (cf. Ephesians 1:19-20)?
14. Why does Paul want to share (literally, "fellowship") with Christ's sufferings?
15. What does Paul want more than anything else? How does this future hope shape his present life?
16. 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: Spend time praising God for the glorious grace in Christ that saves us. Take time to identify evidences of grace in each other's lives.