

WEEK SEVEN

Our Past | Justification

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COMMUNITY TEAM LEADER

Philippians 3:1-11

**Knowing Christ
leads to a joyful
life with God.**

The **priority** for life with God 3:1-3

The **prestige** of life with God 3:4-8

The **process** in life with God 3:9-11

The **priority** for life with God

Paul is concerned for their joy and their doctrine.

Philippians 3:1 NIV

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.

“Joy is not the same as happiness. We can be unhappy about many things, but joy can still be there because it comes from the knowledge of God’s love for us... Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day. It is a choice based on the knowledge that we belong to God and have found in God our refuge and our safety and that nothing, not even death, can take God away from us.”

— Henri Nouwen, *Here and Now*

The **priority** for life with God

God's covenant people: 1) serve in Spirit, 2) glory in Christ, 3) trust his redeeming work not their religious self-efforts.

Philippians 3:2-3 ^{NIV}

Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators (*katatemnein*) of the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision (*peritemnein*), we who **serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—**

Judaizers | legalism (earning)
Christ + _____ = **righteous by works**

Paul | grace (receiving)
Christ = **righteous by faith**

Galatians 5:4-6, 12 NET

You who are trying to be declared righteous by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace! ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we wait expectantly for the hope of righteousness.

⁶ For **in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision carries any weight**— the only thing that matters is faith working through love.

¹² I wish those agitators would go so far as to castrate themselves!

**The priority for life with God:
nothing but the blood of Christ.**

The **prestige** of
life with God
religious resume

Philippians 3:4-6 ^{NIV}

...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.

The **prestige** of
life with God
religious resume
relationship with Christ

Philippians 3:7-8 ^{NIV}

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 Christ.

The prestige of life with God: knowing the risen Christ.

“A familiar Christian hymn states that as I come to God, ‘nothing in my hands I bring, simply to the cross I cling.’ How deeply I resent this fact. How desperately I want to be able to contribute something to the deal – my faith, my effort, my love, my belief. But the bottom line is that Perfect Love meets me where I am and asks only that I open my heart and receive the love for which I long... It took me a long time to begin to know God through my heart and not simply my head.”

— David Benner, *Surrender To Love*

the **process** in
life with God
righteousness

justified – made right with God by faith in Christ

Philippians 3:9 ^{NIV}

...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.

the **process** in
life with God
righteousness
relationship

sanctified – partnership with Christ in his power and suffering

Philippians 3:10 ^{NIV}

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...

the **process** in
life with God

righteousness
relationship
resurrection

glorified – resurrected body in new heaven and earth

Philippians 3:11 ^{NIV}

...and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

The gift of salvation: *freedom from the...*

penalty of sin

JUSTIFICATION

Righteous
by faith in Christ

power of sin

SANCTIFICATION

Relationship
becoming like Christ

presence of sin

GLORIFICATION

Resurrection
with Christ

**The process in life with God:
participating with the risen Christ.**

Philippians 3:1-11

**Knowing Christ
leads to a joyful
life with God.**

Priority: nothing but the blood of Christ

Prestige: knowing the risen Christ

Process: participating with the risen Christ

Knowing Christ is better than _____.