



cultivating
CONTENTMENT
Philippians 3 & 4
Welcome





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Pressing Toward What Matters Most

Philippians 3:1-16



Context

- Written by Paul the Apostle (in prison)
- To Believers in Philippi
- Characteristics of the Philippian Church





Where do we place our confidence?

- In ourselves or in Christ
- Surpassing worth of knowing
Christ Jesus

Main Theme





Joy & Warning

VV 1-3

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Beware of false teachings
- True worship comes from the heart



- Paul's Achievements:
 - Status, education, dedication
- His conclusion:

**ALL IS LOSS COMPARED TO
KNOWING CHRIST**

No Confidence in the Flesh

VV 4-7

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for 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; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.





Knowing Christ

VV 8-11

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

- Greatest gain= knowing Christ
- Righteousness through faith
- Not earned, but given from God





- Not perfect (or mature) yet
- Keep moving forward
- Focus on the goal

Pressing Forward

VV 12-14

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.





Spiritual Maturity

VV 15-16

15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

- Keep growing
- Stay on the right path
- Live up to what you've learned





Application

- Let go of pride in achievements
- Value relationship with Christ
- Keep pressing forward





Closing Thought

PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL, KNOWING CHRIST!

