

# To Live Is Christ

Week 4: PRESS ON!

*Philippians 3:1-21*



Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - February 25th, 2024



**For to Me to Live is Christ...**

*Philippians 1:21 ESV*



**Press ON!**

*Philippians 3:12 ESV*



**How are we made Righteous? 3:1-11**

**Pressing on toward the Goal 3:12-21**



**Tagline:** Righteousness in Christ  
empowers *Pressing On* to take hold of  
our ultimate salvation.



# Introduction - Rejoice



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

*Philippians 3:1 ESV*



**“God’s people are meant to be people who  
are always rejoicing in the Lord.”**

*Martyn Lloyd-Jones*  
*The Assurance of Salvation*



# 1. Righteousness Through Faith in Jesus, Not Ourselves





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

*Philippians 3:2-3 ESV*





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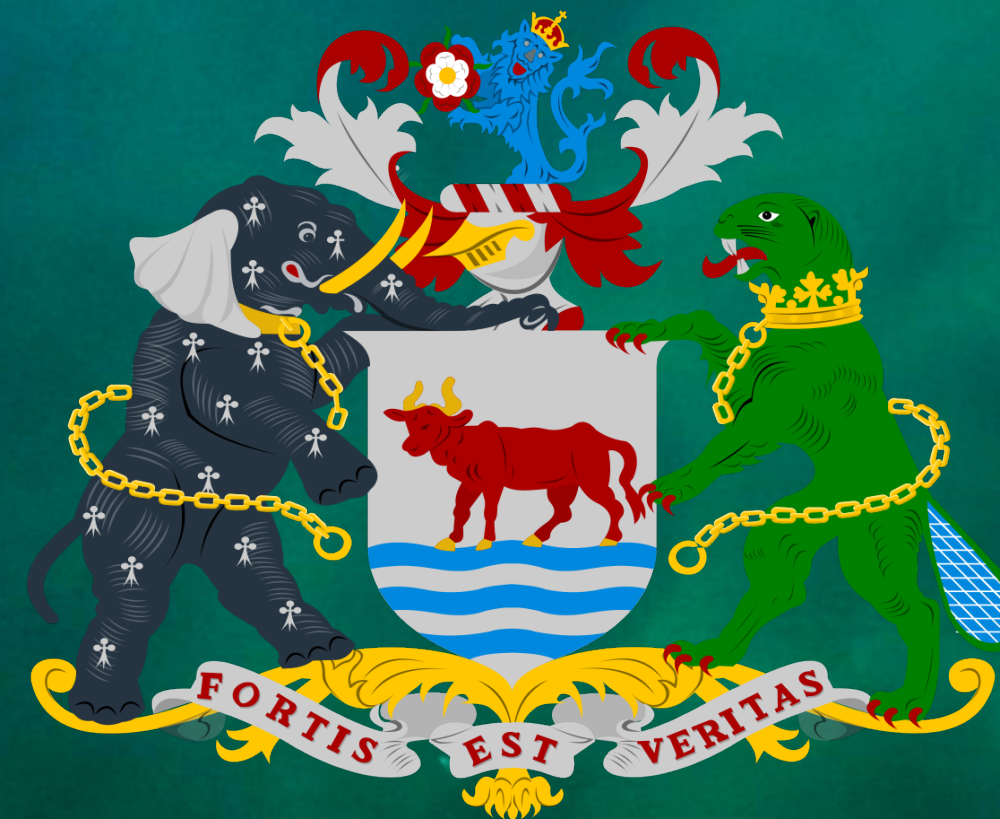


## 2. Paul's Worldly Credential

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: 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; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

*Philippians 3:4-6 ESV*





Harvard, Yale, Oxford and the Gamaliel



### **3. All as Loss for Christ**

**But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 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**



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 — that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

*Philippians 3:7-11 ESV*



whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for  
the sake of Christ.



*Philippians 3:7 ESV*

**Accounting Terminology**

**Gain** = financial profit

**Loss** = financial downturn



**Rubbish** – any material unused & rejected as worthless or unwanted, especially solid animal waste.



**not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ.**

*Philippians 3:9 ESV*



**“Faith is the confident, continuous confession of total dependence on and trust in Jesus Christ for the necessary requirement to enter God’s Kingdom.”**

*John MacArthur*



**Whoever loves father or mother more than me  
is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or  
daughter more than me is not worthy of me.  
And whoever does not take his cross and  
follow me is not worthy of me.**

*Matthew 10:37-38 ESV*



...that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like Him in His death...

*Philippians 3:10 ESV*

**“To Know”** not just intellectual, but experientially & personally.



“Becoming like **Him in His death**” = Such a complete identification that it can only be described as a death.



## **4. Straining Toward the Goal**

**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. 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, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.**

*Philippians 3:12-16 ESV*



**And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**

*Philippians 1:6 ESV*



**Perfect** – complete, finish – the  
+ consummate state

**Press on:** a sprinter, & refers to  
aggressive, energetic action.



**Paul Understands clearly that he has a continuing responsibility to pursue the purposes for which Christ has chosen him. Spiritual progress is ever the imperative Christians must follow.**

*Homer Kent  
The Expositor's Bible Commentary*



**“Forgetting did not mean obliterating the memory of the past, but a conscious refusal to let them absorb his attention and impede his progress.”**

*Homer Kent  
The Expositor's Bible Commentary*



I press on toward the goal for the prize of  
the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



*Philippians 3:14 ESV*

**Upward call** – The time when God calls each believer to heaven and into His presence will be the moment of receiving the prize which has been an unattainable goal in earthly life.



**Justification**

+

**Sanctification**

**Glorification**



**Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

*Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV*



## 5. Imitate a Godly Journey

**Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.**



**Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.**

*Philippians. 3:17-21 ESV*



**They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.**

*1 John 2:19 ESV*



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- **Righteousness Through Faith in Jesus  
& not Ourselves**
- **Paul's Worldly Credentials**
- **All as Loss for Christ**
- **Straining Toward the Goal**
- **Imitate a Godly Journey**





**To me to Live is Christ**



**Count all as Loss**

+

**Fix your Eyes on Jesus**

**Strain Toward the Goal**