

Repeated Words, Themes, and Ideas

1. Joy / Rejoice, Paul wants the Philippians to rejoice in the identity they got from Christ not the one they got from their own accomplishments, 3:1, 3. The Philippians are Paul's joy, 4:1 (other places this appears: 1:4, 18, 25, 26; 2:2, 17-18, 28).
2. Jesus Christ, Paul wants the Philippians to rejoice in the identity they got from Christ instead of being confident in the one they got with their own bare hands, 3:1, 3. Paul considered all his accomplishments garbage and was willing to give them all up to gain Christ so that he would have Christ's righteousness instead of the one he could gain by keeping the Law, 3:7-9. Paul was willing to give up everything he accomplished on his own so that he could know Christ and His resurrection power which would enable him to endure suffering and death; it would enable him to truly live the resurrection life found in Christ, 3:10-11. Paul used every ounce of his being to lay hold of that for which Jesus had also laid hold of him, 3:12. Paul kept pressing toward the goal for the prize found in the upward call of God which is in Christ, 3:14. Paul saw many who were living for themselves; enemies of the cross of Christ, 3:18. Christians eagerly wait for their Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will return from heaven, 3:20. When Jesus returns He will use His awesome power, which can subdue all things to His will, to transform our lowly body into a glorious body like His, 3:21. In light of everything Paul has said about the resurrection life which can be lived in Christ, he wants the Philippians to stand fast in the Lord, 4:1 (other places this appears: 1:1, 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15-18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 29; 2:1, 5-8, 9-11, 19, 21, 24, 29, 30).
3. Getting your identity from yourself and the world around you, Paul tells the Philippians to have confidence in the identity they got from Christ instead of the one they got from their own accomplishments, like those pushing circumcision and like the identity Paul used to have before he met Christ, 3:1-6. It saddened Paul to see so many living by the identity they got from their earthly accomplishments; they are enemies of Christ whose end will be destruction, 3:18-19 (other places this appears: 1:15-16, 28; 2:14, 20-21).
4. Getting your identity from Christ, Paul urges the Philippians to get their identity from their position in Christ instead of their earthly success, 3:1, 3. Paul was willing to give up all his earthly success and actually considered it all trash so that (1) he could get his identity from Christ and (2) so that he would be truly able to live the resurrection life found in Christ, even if it meant suffering and death, 3:7-11. Paul knew that he hadn't attained a perfect resurrection life, but he kept pressing forward so that he could grab ahold of every last bit of resurrection life that the Lord had for him and that God had called him to. Therefore, he urged the Philippians to strive to get every last ounce of it themselves, that is, to follow Paul's and others' example of chasing after that life, 3:12-17. Paul urges the Philippians to remember where their identity came from: heaven, from which Christ will come to once-and-for-all transform their identity to one just like His, thus, he urges them to stand fast in the identity that they have in the Lord, 3:20-4:1 (other places this appears: 1:1, 3-11, 12-18, 19-26, 27-30; 2:1-8, 12-17, 19-24, 25-30)
5. God / god, those who get their identity from Christ are the true circumcision who worship God by means of His Spirit, 3:3. God gives those who believe in Christ true righteousness, a righteousness that is from Him not our own efforts, 3:9. Paul keeps pressing towards the call of God, the one He gave him in Christ, 3:14. Paul urges the Philippians to have a mindset that reaches out for the identity that God has for them in Christ, 3:15. Selfishness is the god of those who shape their identity based on their own earthly success, 3:19 (other places this appears: 1:2, 3, 8, 11, 28; 2:6-7, 9, 11, 12-13, 27).

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6. Holy Spirit / spirit, those God considers “circumcised” are those who worship God in the Spirit not those who worship Him by cutting the flesh in circumcision. Thus, we should rejoice in this, i.e., in the fact that we’re in Christ Jesus and can worship God through His Spirit, instead of having confidence in the flesh, 3:2-3 (other places this appears: 1:19, 27; 2:1).
7. Confident / Confidence, Paul urges the Philippians to rejoice in the fact that they’re in Christ Jesus and can worship God through His Spirit, instead of having confidence in their earthly accomplishments, 3:3. If anyone else thinks that they can have confidence in their flesh, Paul had even more reasons to have confidence in his earthly accomplishments. Through and through, Paul had an impressive fleshly resume: he was circumcised the eighth day, came from the stock of Israel, was of the tribe of Benjamin, he was a Hebrew of Hebrews: concerning the Law, he was a Pharisee. Concerning zeal, he persecuted the Church. Concerning the righteousness which is in the Law, he was blameless, 3:4-6 (other places this appears: 1:6, 14, 19, 20, 25; 2:19, 24).
8. Flesh, Paul urges the Philippians to have no confidence in the flesh but instead to rejoice in Christ Jesus, 3:3. Compared to anyone else, Paul had more reasons to have confidence in the flesh: he was circumcised the eighth day, came from the stock of Israel, was of the tribe of Benjamin, he was a Hebrew of Hebrews: concerning the Law, he was a Pharisee. Concerning zeal, he persecuted the Church. Concerning the righteousness which is in the Law, he was blameless, 3:4-6 (other places this appears: 1:22, 24).
9. Law, concerning the Law, Paul had two reasons to boast about: concerning the Law, he was a Pharisee. And when it came to attaining the righteousness that you get from keeping the Law, he was blameless, 3:5-6. Instead of having the righteousness that Paul could get by keeping the Law, he rather wanted the righteousness that is acquired by faith in Christ, 3:9.
10. Righteousness, when it came to the righteousness that you could get from keeping the Law, Paul was blameless, 3:6. Paul wanted to find himself inside Jesus, not having his own righteousness, but the righteousness that you get from God when you believe in Christ, 3:9 (other places this appears: 1:11).
11. Faith / Believe, Paul did not want to have the righteousness he could acquire himself by keeping the Law, but the righteousness that God gives you when you believe in Christ, 3:9 (other places this appears: 1:25, 27, 29; 2:17).
12. Living the resurrection life, Paul’s goal was to fully live the resurrection life through the power of Jesus’ resurrection by any means necessary, even if it meant suffering and death, 3:10-11. Paul urged the Philippians to forget the past and to follow his example and that of others who were reaching out with every ounce of their being to live the resurrection life that Christ reserved for them and God called them to, 3:12-17. Paul urged the Philippians to remember their citizenship, therefore they must stand fast in the Lord and live out their resurrection life as they await the Lord’s permanent resurrection life transformation, 3:20-4:1 (other places this appears: 1:3-8, 12-18, 19-26, 27-30; 2:1-4, 12-18, 19-24, 25-30).

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13. One mind / Like-minded, Paul urges the Philippians to have the same Christ-like, selfless mind that he and others have. And if they doubt anything he's said, then God will reveal to them whether or not they are right, 3:15-17. There are others who also have the same mind, but they are enemies of the Cross of Christ. They are utterly selfish, glory in their shame, and set their minds on nothing but earthly things, 3:18-19 (other places this appears: 1:27; 2:2-4, 5-8, 20-21, 25-30).
14. Selflessness, Paul was willing to give up all his earthly accomplishments in order to gain Christ and His righteousness; his goal was to fully know the resurrection life that was capable through Jesus' resurrection power even if it meant suffering and death, 3:7-11. Paul urged the Philippians to follow his and others' example of a selfless life, i.e., those who spent every last ounce of their strength chasing after the resurrection life that Jesus reserved for them and that God called them to, 3:12-17 (other places this appears: 1:1, 3-7, 9-10, 12-18, 19-26, 27-30; 2:1-4, 5-8, 17-18, 19-24, 25-30).
15. Glory, those who are utterly selfish and walk after their flesh, their glory is in their shame, 3:19 (other places this appears: 1:11; 2:11).
16. Blameless / Without fault, when it came to acquiring the righteousness that you get from keeping the Law, Paul was blameless, 3:6 (other places this appears: 1:6, 10, 27; 2:12-16).