

## Philippians 3 Summarized

### Sentences

3:1, finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.

3:2, beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

3:3-6, for we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

3:7, but what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

3:8-11, yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

3:12, not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

3:13-14, brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

3:15-16, therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

3:17-19, brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose glory is* in their shame -- who set their mind on earthly things.

3:20-21, for our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

4:1, therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

## Paragraphs

3:1-6, finally, Paul tells the Philippians: “Rejoice in the Lord and not in what your human flesh can do. You need to realize that you have already arrived; you don’t need the circumcision demanded by God’s Law because we are the circumcision! We possess the Spirit of Christ who enables us to worship God! If you want know someone who can brag about their human good, look at me: I was born a Jew, circumcised the eighth day, a Jew through and through. In fact, I was the #1 Pharisee and I kept the righteousness of God’s Law/Word perfectly, exemplified **[or so I thought]** by my persecution of the Church.

3:7-11, but everything I accomplished through my human flesh, I realize now, was garbage. In fact, I willingly gave it all up so that I could gain Christ and His righteousness instead of the unrighteousness I had before—evidenced by my persecution of God’s Church. I turned my back on all of it so that I could enter into a relationship with Jesus, to truly get to know Him and His power to resurrect individuals like me who live a dead existence. My goal was to completely identify with Jesus, including His sufferings and death, so that by any means I may lay hold of the resurrection life Jesus gives to those who are like walking dead.

3:12-16, not that I have already laid hold of it; I haven’t reached perfection. But I won’t let my past failures stop me. I keep pressing on so that I can grab a hold of that thing for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me, i.e., the resurrection life God called me to, immersed in His Son. Thus, let all of us, who are striving to live this resurrection life, have the same selfless mind of Christ; we must keep walking down this same path. And if you have any doubts about any of this, God will clear it up for you.

3:17-4:1, so follow my example and others who so walk; we’re the pattern. Because there are many who now walk according to their selfish desires; they will get what they deserve. All they care about is their belly and earthly things. But our identity is rooted in heaven and one day our Lord Jesus Christ will return to conquer and transform our lowly human body into a glorious body like His **[and our resurrection life will become permanent]**. Therefore, my beloved, my joy and crown, stay deeply rooted in the Lord and live your life from in there.”

## Whole Chapter

Paul urges the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord instead of their human flesh. They don’t need to strive for human good to worship God. They already possess the Spirit of Jesus who enables them to worship God. Paul’s a prime example that human good leads to unrighteousness: he was a Jew of Jews, the #1 Pharisee who kept the righteousness of God’s Law/Word perfectly but it led him to persecute the Church **[his life was actually death]**. Thus he willingly gave it all up so that he could completely identify with Christ and His righteousness. He wanted to personally know Jesus and His power to resurrect the walking dead. With every ounce of his being he wanted to lay hold of the resurrection life found in Jesus. Paul knew that he hadn’t laid hold of it completely. But he didn’t let his past stop him; he wanted to grab what Christ had for him, the resurrection life that God had called him to in His Son. Therefore, the Philippians need to follow Paul’s example and others who so walk; they must strive to live the resurrection life, to have the same selfless mind of Christ. Because there are many who walk contrary to this; they are utterly selfish; all they care about is their belly and earthly things. But the Philippians must remember that their identity is rooted in heaven and one day their Lord will return to make their resurrection life permanent; He’ll transform their lowly human body into a glorious body like His. Therefore, they must live their resurrection life firmly rooted in the Lord.