

Students - Cell Group Discipleship Study Guide

Phil. 3:12-21

Subject: The Joy of Having Christ in Your Life – Part III

Scripture: Phil. 3:12-21 - 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. 15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained. 17 Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. 18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (NIV)

Scripture Content - In Part I and Part II we have looked at verses 1-11. Now we want to look at Part III, verses 12-21.

Objective: Goal: To know Christ and to make Him known our number one passion in life.
Challenge: Eliminate competing distractions so we can make Christ first (Matt. 6:33). **Benefit:** The more focused we become the more God can use us.

Message from the Passage to Rising Star - Questions from Sunday's Message for Discussion

- A. Knowing Christ **Exposes** False Teachers (Vs. 1-3).
- B. Knowing Christ **Eliminates** Human Pride (Vs. 4-11).
- C. Knowing Christ _____ Godly Motivation (Vs. 12-16).

1. Paul's _____ (V. 12). 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

What's your number one ambition in life?

2. Paul's _____ (Vs. 13-14). 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

What was the prize Paul was pushing to achieve?

3. Paul's _____ (Vs. 15-16). 15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

What did Paul mean when he uses the word "perfect" as found in the KJV?

D. Knowing Christ _____ Righteous Living (Vs. 17-21).

1. Paul's _____ (V. 17). *17 Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.*

What kind of example did Paul set for the believers at Philippi?

2. Paul's _____ (Vs. 18-19). *18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.*

Why did Paul consider the Jews preaching circumcision his enemies?

3. Paul's _____ (Vs. 20-21). *20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.* (NIV)

Paul considered himself to be a citizen of Rome and heaven. Do you see yourself as a citizen of America and the kingdom of heaven?

III. CLOSE – To know Jesus Christ is the greatest discovery, and to make Him known is the greatest achievement. Do you know Him?

Application

1. We must make Christ our number one priority by giving him our time, talents and treasure. What are some ways you can do this?
2. Being a role model for others to follow is a key to being an effective witness. In what way will you model Christ so others can follow your example?
3. Both Christ and Paul said we would have enemies? Can you think of some enemies in your life that are hindering your spiritual growth? What will you do about them?
4. Paul talked about his expectation to see Christ as a citizen of the kingdom of God. We know Jesus is coming back for believers. How will that motivate you?

We are growing **Warmer** through **Fellowship**, **Deeper** through **Discipleship**, **Stronger** through **Worship**, **Broader** through **Ministry**, **Larger** through **Evangelism**, **Healthier** and **Wealthier** through **Stewardship**. (Acts 2:41-47)

Memory Verse: Phil. 3:14 - I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (NIV)