

**Philippians
Lesson 3**
April 23, 2026



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1

Knowing Christ reshapes our...

- Past — wrong confidence (Philippians 3:1-7)
- Present — what we are now pursuing (Philippians 3:8-14)
- Future — where we are ultimately heading (Philippians 3:15-21)

2

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 1:6

3

Past: Wrong Confidence Philippians 3:1-7



4

***“And some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.’”
Acts 15:1***

5

Truly “circumcised” Christian — Phil 3:3

- **Worship by the Spirit of God.**
 - **Romans 12:1** *“I urge you....to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”*
 - **Romans 8:9** *“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of christ, he does not belong to Him.”*

6

Truly “circumcised” Christian — Phil 3:3

- **Glory in Christ Jesus**
 - **Galatians 6:14** *“But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”*
 - **1 Corinthians 1:31** *“just as it is written, ‘Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.’”*

7

Truly “circumcised” Christian — Phil 3:3

- **Put no confidence in the flesh**

8


Debits	Credits
Circumcised	Confidence in flesh
Israelite	Self-righteousness
Tribe of Benjamin	Trust in identity
Hebrew of Hebrews	Trust in pedigree
Pharisee	Trust in law-keeping
Zeal (persecutor)	Trust in performance
Blameless in the law	Trust in moral record

9

Debits	Credits
Loss	Circumcised
	Israelite
	Tribe of Benjamin
	Hebrew of Hebrews
	Pharisee
	Zeal (persecutor)
	Blameless in the law

10

**Present: Right Pursuit
Philippians 3:8-14**



11

Debits	Credits
Knowing Christ	Righteousness from God
Relationship with Christ	Justification by faith
Loss of all things	Grace (unearned)

12

Gains

- New Standing — vs 9
- New Pursuit — vv. 10-14
 - Know Him
 - Power of His resurrection
 - Fellowship of His sufferings
 - 1 Peter 4:12-13 *“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ.”*
 - 2 Tim 3:12 *“everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*
 - Romans 5:3-4 *“exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance proven character, and proven character, hope.”*

13

“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I **press on** so that I may **lay hold** of that for which also I was **laid hold** of by Christ ”
Philippians 3:12

14

- **Lay hold** ~ Greek katalambanō — to seize, to take hold decisively
- **Press on** ~ Greek: diōkō — to pursue, to chase, to run after

Christ **seized** me so now I am **chasing** after Him.

15

“ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 3:13-14

16

**Future: Right Finish
Philippians 3:15-21**



17

**Don't wait until you understand
everything to obey something.
Live up to what you already
know.**

18

**The finish line isn't just relief—its
transformation. The finish line
makes the struggle worth it.**

19

Knowing Christ reshapes our...

- Past — I was trusting the wrong things and had to let them go.
- Present — I haven't arrived but I am pressing on.
- Future — My citizenship is in heaven and I am heading home.



20

**Will you, will I, trust the One who started it...
drop what slows us down....
and keep running towards Him?**

