

STUDYING THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

Lesson 6 - No Confidence in the Flesh - Philippians 3:1-11

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

PHP 3:1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

PHP 3:2 Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. [3] For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh-- [4] though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: [5] circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; [6] as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

PHP 3:7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. [8] What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ [9] and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. [10] I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, [11] and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 6 - No Confidence in the Flesh - Philippians 3:1-11

62. What did Paul call on believers to do? (3:1)
63. Why did Paul repeat essential truths to the Philippians? (3:1)
64. What did Paul say about certain false teachers? (3:2)
65. Whom did Paul identify as "true"? (3:3)
66. What autobiographical facts did Paul give? (3:4-6)
67. In what sense was Paul not boasting, even though he was calling attention to his accomplishments? (3:7-9)

- 68. Why did Paul view his former accomplishments as "rubbish"? (3:8)
- 69. What was Paul's status in Christ? (3:9)
- 70. What longings did Paul admit to the Philippians? (3:10-11)
- 71. What hope did Paul express? (3:11)

Lesson 7 - Pressing on Toward the Goal - Philippians 3:12-21

PHP 3:12 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.

PHP 3:15 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.

PHP 3:17 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.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 7 - Pressing on Toward the Goal - Philippians 3:12-21

- 72. What was Paul's testimony? (3:12-14)
- 73. In what ways did Paul's spiritual life resemble the discipline of a runner? (3:12-14)
- 74. What was Paul's view of the past? (3:13)
- 75. What was Paul's goal? (3:14)
- 76. How did Paul call the Philippians to share his view? (3:15)
- 77. What did Paul hope for the believers who disagreed with him? (3:15)
- 78. What was Paul's plea to the Philippians? (3:16)

79. How did Paul want believers to imitate him? (3:17)
80. How did Paul describe God's enemies? (3:18-19)
81. Where did the Philippian Christians have their citizenship? (3:20)
82. Whom did the Philippian believers eagerly await? (3:20)
83. What characterizes citizens of heaven? (3:21)