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**Philippians 3:1-15**

Further, my brothers and sisters, 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. <sup>2</sup> Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— <sup>4</sup> though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> 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; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> **What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ** <sup>9</sup> 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 on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> **I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,** <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, **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,** <sup>14</sup> **I press on** toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> All of us, then, 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.

**I. What you believe about YOURSELF matters.**

Too many live in the **past**. That's all they see. Robbing themselves of their **present** and **future**.

**Philippians 3:8** "What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ."

**Philippians 3:10** "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death..."

Paul says to really "**live**" we must:

**1. Know Christ and the POWER of His resurrection – Experience God's power to make those things that are dead alive again.**

**2. Fellowship of his SUFFERINGS – there is often suffering as you move from your past to a new present and future.**

**3. Become like Him in His DEATH.**

**Philippians 2:5-8** "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross."

**Romans 6:5-8** "For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His. For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin - because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him."

**4. PRESS ON to believe what God believes about you.**

**Philippians 3:13** "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But this one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and pressing on toward what is ahead..."

**Ephesians 2:10** "For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

All things are possible with God.  
Don't be defined by the facts.  
You can either be defined by **People** or **God**.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here."

**Ezekiel 36:26** "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

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