

Love Letters

Philippians 3

Read Philippians 3

Knowing Him ~

1. Whom does Paul warn his readers to beware about (vs 2)? (It would be helpful to look at this verse in different translations for clarity.)
2. How does Paul refer to himself & those true believers in Philippi? (vs 3)
3. Read vs 4–7 again, noting what Paul says about himself.
 - a. Vs 5:
 - b. Vs 6:
 - c. Vs 7:
4. Did Paul put any confidence in these things? How did he perceive them? (vs 8)
5. Paul wasn't satisfied, even in how far he had gone in his relationship with Christ—he wanted more. What about you? Do you want more?

Pressing toward the Goal, Part 1 ~

Reread Philippians 3:8–16

1. What is Paul's conclusion about attempting to please God in the flesh? (vs 8–9)
2. What was Paul's one great aim according to vs 10–11?
 - a. His relationship with Christ meant Paul would have to share in something; what was it?
3. What had become Paul's determined purpose in life?
 - a. Verse 13
 - b. Verse 14
4. Thinking back to what you already know about Paul as he kept this goal in mind, what are some things he might have remembered that perhaps motivated him to press on?
5. While reaching for the goal, should you veer off course for any reason? Of what truth can you be certain & how does it encourage you? (vs 15)

Pressing toward the Goal, Part 2 ~

“Let us be of the same mind.”

Take a moment now to pray, asking God to enlighten you & help you to let go of anything that would hinder your progress.

1. What would potentially happen to a runner who kept looking behind during the race?
2. How might believers be hindered in their race if they continually set their mind on the things of the past? What potential consequences could there be?
3. From what you know of Paul's life & testimony (Acts 9), what personal thoughts might Paul have had in mind when he penned the words: forgetting what lies behind?
4. Personal: Is there anything from your past you keep glancing back at rather than letting it go? What is keeping you from releasing it?

Follow My Example ~

Reread Philippians 3:17–21

1. What was Paul going to leave behind for those who came after him? (vs 17)
2. Contrast Paul's example with those who lived contrary to the gospel; where did they place their focus? How does Paul describe them? (vs 18–19)
3. Where did Paul say he & the Philippian believers' citizenship rested? (vs 20)
 - a. Pause & consider for a moment: Where is your citizenship? Paul had joy in knowing Christ because his lifestyle reflected Him—does yours? Are you eagerly awaiting Him?
4. Personal: Do you think Paul would acknowledge you as someone other believers should follow? Why or why not?
5. Who right now is following your example as a believer? Where is that example leading them—closer to Christ or further away from Him?
6. Paul didn't say follow me in a cavalier way; he knew well what those words meant. On what basis was Paul comfortable encouraging others to follow him? See 1 Corinthians 11:1

In Touch with Jesus ~

1. **LISTEN:** In what way did the Lord Jesus meet you in His Word this week? Be specific.
2. **LEARN:** How can you apply this understanding to your daily Christian walk?
3. **LIVE:** What step of obedience will you purpose to take in our walk of faith this week?