



PHILIPPIANS

— BEING JOYFUL DISCIPLES —

Joy In The Journey

Philippians 3:12-4:1

JOY

“it’s an attitude God’s people adopt,
not because of happy circumstances
but because of their hope in God’s love
and promise” (Mackie 2017)

Last Week

Philippians 3:1-11

- Paul's reason for confidence in the Christian life (v1-6)
- Not in his own background, training, status or ability; but in the relationship Paul has with Jesus. (v.7)
- What mattered most to Paul was to be found in Jesus, trusting in His death & resurrection and the promise of eternal life. (v.8)

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. (v.10-11)

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The Christian life as a race or athletic pursuit

- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- **Philippians 3:12-14**
- Galatians 5:7
- 1 Timothy 4:7-8
- 2 Timothy 4:7
- Hebrews 12:1-2
- James 1:12

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**Don't give up,
keep running the race!**

Key verse = Phil 3:13-14

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Philippians 3:12

*¹² 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.*

- “**all this**” = Philippians 3:7-11
- Paul is **looking forward** to the resurrection. (v.11)

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Philippians 3:12-4:1

Philippians 3:13-14

*¹³ 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, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

- Paul **keeps running the race.** (v.13-14)

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- “**straining**” (v.13) = to exert oneself to the utmost

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- Joy in the journey is not found in looking back, but in looking forward to the cross!

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Philippians 3:12-4:1

Three KEYS to keep us in the race:

1. Follow Godly examples (v.17, cf. 1 Cor 11:1)

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

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Philippians 3:12-4:1

1. Follow Godly examples (Phil 2:19-30)

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

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Philippians 3:12-4:1

Three KEYS to keep us in the race:

1. Follow Godly examples (v.17; cf. 2:19-30; 1 Cor 11:1)
2. Flee earthly thinking (v.18-19)

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Philippians 3:12-4:1

Three KEYS to keep us in the race:

2. Flee earthly thinking (v.18-19)

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you 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 set on earthly things.

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Philippians 3:12-4:1

2. Flee earthly thinking (v.18-19) (cf. Philemon 1:24; Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:10)

¹⁰ *“Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.”*

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Three KEYS to keep us in the race:

1. Follow Godly examples (v.17; cf. 2:19-30; 1 Cor 11:1)
2. Flee earthly thinking (v.18-19)
3. Focus on the prize (v.20-21)

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Philippians 3:12-4:1

3. Focus on the prize (v.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.

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3. Focus on the prize (v.20-21; cf. Rev 21:1-4)

¹ Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

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Philippians 3:12-4:1

3. Focus on the prize (v.20-21)

Revelation 22:1-4

*¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. **The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.** ⁴ **They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.** ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

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Revelation 21:3-4

"Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

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