

Philippians 3:12-21 — “In Him” or “In the Flesh”

September 17, 2023 – Pastor Don Talley

Phil 2:6-7 (NLT)	Phil 3:3, 9	Gal.5:16-17
Phil 3:1	Phil 4:4	1 Thess 5:16-19
Luke 10:20b	Rom 8:1	1 Cor 10:13 (NLT)
James 1:5	Matt 28:20	Phil 3:3
Prov 3:5-6		

1) We don't fully function as God created us! You and I are

BROKEN!

We are fully Human—like the baby Jesus—but broken!

Mankind fell from **PERFECTION** in the garden!

2) Paul was **RELIGIOUS** enough to get into the synagogue, but not **RIGHTEOUS** enough to get into Heaven!

3) My **NORMAL**, or immediate response to any disagreeable situation is to act or respond “In the Flesh!” It's my life-long, practiced **HABIT!**

4) It is only when I am **PURPOSEFULLY**—or habitually—acting or reacting that I am “Walking in the Spirit” and able to **defeat** the **POWER** of my flesh!

5) Our **POSITION** “In Christ” is eternal, non-changing... ..but there is a **PRACTICAL** side to being “In Christ” as well. That's what this chapter is about!

6) Don't focus on the past!
Our failures will **DISCOURAGE** us;
our successes will **DISTRACT** us!

7) Righteousness is gained, **not** by **TRYING**, but by **TRUSTING**; yet building up my faith demands effort. Faith is not passive - it's active and aggressive.

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1) We don't fully function as God created us! You and I are _____! We are fully Human—like the baby Jesus—but broken! Mankind fell from _____ in the garden!

2) Paul was _____ enough to get into the synagogue, but not _____ enough to get into Heaven!

3) My _____, or immediate response to any disagreeable situation is to act or respond “In the Flesh!” It's my life-long, practiced _____!

4) It is only when I am _____—or habitually—acting or reacting that I am “Walking in the Spirit” and able to **defeat** the _____ of my flesh!

5) Our _____ “In Christ” is eternal, non-changing... but there is a _____ side to being “In Christ” as well. That's what this chapter is about!

6) Don't focus on the past!
Our failures will _____ us;
our successes will _____ us!

7) Righteousness is gained, **not** by _____, but by _____; yet building up my faith demands effort. Faith is not passive - it's active and aggressive.

9) What verse(s) or practices are most helpful for you to resist your flesh and walk in the Spirit?

10) What do you think the following verse means?

1 Corinthians 10:13 - *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."*

GET PRACTICAL

11) What do you most need to remember or put into practice from this week's message or homework?

12) Is there something specific in your past (either failure or success) that you need to "forget"? What verse or practice might help you do this?

13) Take some time to pray and ask God what His "next step" is for you in the Christian race. What do you think He is leading you to do next, or to "press on" towards?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of September 17, 2023

MY STORY

1) Are you more likely to ponder the past, focus on the present, or dream about the future? Why?

QUICK REVIEW

2) Summarize Philippians 3:12-21 in one sentence.

3) What stood out to you from this Sunday's message? (Favorite point, favorite verse, questions, etc)

DIGGING DEEPER

4) This week we read how Paul forgets what is "behind" and strives toward what is "ahead". How would you encourage a fellow Christian who believes they're not very useful to God because of their past sin or mistakes?

How would you encourage a fellow Christian who believes God is pleased with them NOW because in their past, they read the Bible daily or shared the gospel frequently?

5) Read the following passage.

Philippians 3:11-12 - "[11] *if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. [12] Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.*"

Do you think Paul means he is *unsure* of his salvation, and that he is trying to ensure he gets saved? Why or why not? If not, what do you think Paul is saying?

6) Since Paul compares the Christian life to a race, what best encourages you to have perseverance in your race? (What makes you want to keep *pressing on*?) Are there any favorite bible verses that help you *press on*?

7) What do you think it means to be a "mature" Christian? What separates the spiritually mature and immature?

8) As you read the following passages, list the various ways the Corinthian Christians were carnal or worldly.

1 Corinthians 1:10-12 NLT - "[10] *I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. [11] For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear*

brothers and sisters. [12] Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ.""

1 Corinthians 4:3-5 NLT - "[3] *As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point. [4] My conscience is clear, but that doesn't prove I'm right. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide. [5] So don't make judgments about anyone ahead of time--before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due.*"

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 NLT - "[1] *I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you--something that even pagans don't do. I am told that a man in your church is living in sin with his stepmother. [2] You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship.*"

1 Corinthians 6:1, 8 NLT - "[1] *When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers! ... [8] Instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong and cheat even your fellow believers.*"

In what way(s) were the Corinthian Christians "mugwumps"? (Sitting on the fence between living for Jesus and for themselves)

What do you think are the most common reasons a Christian today struggles to keep "*living in the flesh*"?