

REMEMBER

A study of the book of Philippians

REMEMBER
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Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are **in Philippi**, including the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:1-2



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“I thank my God in all my **remembrance** of you,” Philippians 1:3

He remembers his previous visit to Philippi:

- Salvation of Lydia and family members
- Salvation of jailer and family members
- Deliverance from prison

Last week...

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing;” Philippians 2:14

*Am I doing anything with my life?

*What am I doing with my life?

*What can I do for God’s glory?

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Last week...

“Do all things without **grumbling** or **disputing;**” Philippians 2:14

*How can I honor Jesus with my words?

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“so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent [ἀκέραιος *akeraios* ... pure, unmixed], children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, **among whom you appear as lights in the world,**”

Philippians 2:15

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Do you wonder why life seems empty?

“For they all seek [ζητέω *zeteo*... desire, strive after] after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:21

*What am I seeking?

*What are my priorities?

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Philippians 3:1-14

This is a personal letter written by the Apostle Paul from Rome to Philippi (800 miles away), and we are reading correspondence between friends.

God intended for this letter to be read by His people, so He preserved it for scripture, but its original purpose was a personal one.

“Finally, my brethren, **rejoice in the Lord**. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.”

Philippians 3:1

*It is easy for believers to let circumstances discourage them. The cure for discouragement is to rivet one's attention on the Lord and rejoice in Him.

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Philippians 1:4 - "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with **joy**..."

1:18 - "The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I **rejoice**. Yes, and I will continue to **rejoice**...."

1:25 - "Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and **joy** in the faith"

2:2 - "Make my **joy** complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."

2:17-18 - "But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and **rejoice** with all of you. So you too should be glad and **rejoice** with me."

2:28-29 - "Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may **be glad** and I may have less anxiety. Welcome him in the Lord with great **joy**, and honor men like him...."

3:1 - "Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord!"

4:1 - "Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my **joy** and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!"

4:4 - "**Rejoice** in the Lord always. I will say it again: **Rejoice!**"

4:10 - " I **rejoice** greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me."



It is significant that a Roman prisoner would beseech people who were free to be joyful in their Savior. It seems that it should be the other way around. Paul learned what every child of God needs to learn—there can be rejoicing in the Lord even when outward circumstances are contrary to a spirit of rejoicing. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

“Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision”

Philippians 3:2

Who were the Judaizers?

In the early church, those who taught a combination of God’s grace and human effort were called “Judaizers.” The word “Judaizer” comes from a Greek verb meaning “to live according to Jewish customs.” - <https://www.gotquestions.org/Judaizers.html>

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Covenant of Circumcision

The Lord said to Abram, “I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

God said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. **This is My covenant**, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: **every male among you shall be circumcised.**” Genesis 17:7-10

Covenant of Circumcision

And when eight days had passed, before His **circumcision**, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. Luke 2:21

*Jesus, the Son of God, who lived on earth as a faithful Jew, received circumcision as a baby boy

Who were the Judaizers?

Judaizers taught that, in order for a Christian to truly be right with God, he must conform to the Mosaic Law. Circumcision, especially, was promoted as necessary for salvation. Gentiles had to become Jewish proselytes first, and then they could come to Christ. The doctrine of the Judaizers was a mixture of grace (through Christ) and works (through the keeping of the Law). This false doctrine was dealt with in Acts 15 and strongly condemned (by Paul) in the book of Galatians.

Who were the Judaizers?

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- Were the Judaizers Jews or Gentiles?
- There is good reason to think that these Judaizers were not Jews by birth but fanatical Gentile proselytes preoccupied with physical circumcision, in which they took inordinate pride, regarding it as the necessary means of initiation into the people of God (1 Cor. 9:20b; Gal. 5:2–4, 6:12–13). Gentiles who undergo an outward conversion to Judaism without an inward change of heart are certainly not the spiritually Circumcised, even though they claim to be.
- Against this hypothesis is raised the objection that Paul would not list all his Jewish credentials (vv. 5–6) if the Judaizers had none themselves; hence the Judaizers must have been born Jews.
- A response comes from what Paul himself writes. In effect, he asks, “Are they Jews? If so, they are Jews only by conversion, while I am ‘an Israelite by birth’ (v. 5), which is a more telling claim.” Judaism forbids embarrassing a proselyte by reminding him of his non-Jewish origins (see also Rom. 4:16), but here Paul effectively rules that protecting the faithful against those who prey on them is a weightier point of halakhah (religious law). Distressed at having to recommend himself, Paul hastens to add that he does not put confidence in human qualifications and regards them as “garbage” (v. 8). He introduces them only because those who oppose him consider their own meager qualifications so impressive.

Opposing the Judaizers

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Apostle Paul wrote...

But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas [Peter] in the presence of all, **“If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.”** Galatians 2:14-16

Paul continues...

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“for we [believers in the Messiah] are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory [καυχάομαι *kauchaomai*... to boast] in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh” Philippians 3:3

“Moreover **the Lord your God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, **to love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.” Deuteronomy 30:6

REMEMBER

“although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else [who thinks they can earn their salvation by good works] has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.” Philippians 3:4-6

Paul also wrote... “and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.” Galatians 1:14

“confidence in the flesh” Philippians 3:4

Resume of Paul/Saul contained 7 items:

- circumcised the eighth day (Genesis 17:12, Leviticus 12:3)
- of the nation of Israel (not a convert/proselyte)
- of the tribe of Benjamin (named after King Saul, 1 Samuel 9:1-2)
- a Hebrew of Hebrews (native Hebrew speaker and customs)
- as to the Law, a Pharisee (the strictest sect of Judaism)
- as to zeal, a persecutor of the church (Acts 8:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:9)
- as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless

**** Given by Birth ** Choices made by Paul**

“confidence in the flesh” Philippians 3:4

What about us?

- Are you really successful in this life? You need a Savior.
- Have you struggled to find success? You need a Savior.
- Do you have a very impressive resume? You need a Savior.
- Do you have no resume at all? You need a Savior.
- Do you have a strong spiritual background? You need a Savior.
- Do you have NO spiritual background? You need a Savior.

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“But whatever things were gain to me [remember Paul’s resume?], those things I have counted as loss [*ζημία zemia*... damage] for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of **the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish [filth] so that I may gain Christ”

Philippians 3:7-8

Is Jesus my Lord?

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- In the New Testament, Jesus is called “Lord” (*kurios*) 747 times.
- In the book of Acts, Jesus is called “Savior” 2 times and “Lord” 92 times. Source: Pastor John MacArthur

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as **Lord**, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” Romans 10:9

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“and may be found **in Him**, not having a **righteousness** of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the **righteousness** which comes from God on the basis of faith [trust]” Philippians 3:9

δικαιοσύνη *dikaiosynē*

Translated into English as “justice” or “righteousness”

Meaning: the act of doing what God requires

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“the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith” Philippians 3:9

For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
Isaiah 64:6

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“the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith” Philippians 3:9

Last week...

“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling”

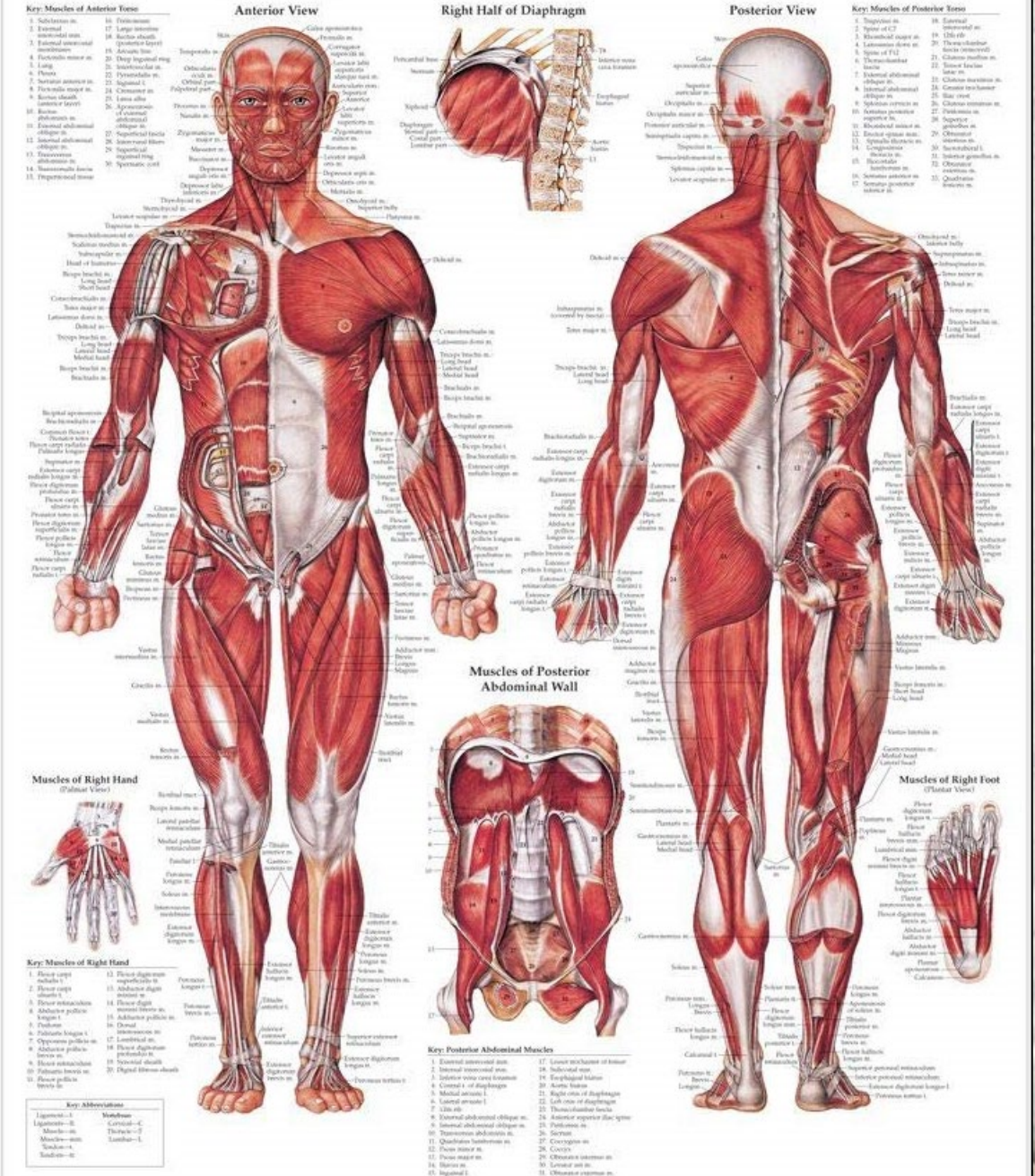
Philippians 2:12

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They were told to “work out,” to put into practice in their daily living, what God had worked in them by His Spirit. They were not told to work for their salvation but to work out the salvation God had already given them. In view of the apparent problems of disunity and pride among those believers this interpretation seems correct. Some were not doing their work selflessly and with the interests of others ahead of their own.

-Bible Knowledge Commentary

THE MUSCULAR SYSTEM



“work out” does not mean “work for”

Salvation σωτηρία *soteria*

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“work out” does not mean “earn”

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift of God; not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Paul continues...

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“that I may know Him and the power [*δύναμις* *dunamis*] of His resurrection and **the fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” Philippians 3:10-11

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13

REMEMBER

“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I **press on** so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:12

*As faithful and obedient as Paul was, he understood (and wanted the believers in Philippi to understand) that he was not perfect spiritually

*Paul already knew Jesus as Savior, but he longed to know Jesus more

REMEMBER

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead” Philippians 3:13

*Paul’s salvation experience had taken place about 30 years before he wrote to the Philippians. He had won many spiritual battles in that time. He had grown much in those years, but he candidly confessed he had not obtained all this, nor was he yet made perfect. He still had more spiritual heights to climb. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

“forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead” Phil. 3:13

- In what areas of your life do you need to forget what lies behind?
- In what areas of your life do you need to reach forward to what lies ahead?

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“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:14

*Paul had in mind the ancient Greek athletic games, especially foot races

*Paul wanted to advance/improve spiritually

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As a disciple of Jesus, what is behind you?

Sinfulness? Righteousness?

Failure? Success?

Paul knew that he must not dwell on the past; its **failures** and **sins** have been forgiven, and its **achievements** in the service of Christ must not allow him to rest on his laurels.

“Press On” in Philippians 3:12, 14

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διώκω *diōkō*

Meaning: to move quickly and energetically toward some objective— “to hasten, to run, to press forward, to press on”

verb, present, active, indicative, first person, singular

***In what areas of your life do you need to press on?**

REMEMBER

REMEMBER

Because our series title is **Remember**, we are going to try to **remember** a new scripture each week

“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.” Philippians 3:7

Remember...

For followers of Jesus, life is about:

- Obeying God's call to salvation and ministry
- Meeting the needs of others
- Sharing the good news of Jesus
- Serving alongside fellow believers