

PHILIPPIANS – LESSON 5 – “Live Not by Lies”

DAY 29

Begin this week by reciting Philippians 3:10

Memory Verse:

Philippians 3:10

¹⁰ That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death

Now try to say it from memory.

Reflect: In this verse the apostle Paul focuses on two ways we learn to know Christ and grow in him. First, we need to know the power of his resurrection. By his might, Jesus crushed the head of Satan, destroyed death, and conquered sin. When our Savior rose from the dead, he unleashed his power in the spiritual world, but also in our life. He is present. He is with us. He is alive. How can you walk with greater awareness of Jesus' presence with you now and every moment? How does the promise that one day you will rise with Jesus help you live for him each day?

DAY 30

Read: Philippians 3:1-6. Read this passage again and reflect on where you should place your confidence.

Reflect: Beware of those who place their confidence in human systems, religious regulations, and personal accomplishments. The only place to anchor our trust and allow any boasting is in Christ Jesus, who conquered sin and rose in glory. We are wise when we place our ultimate trust in Jesus and nothing else. What are ways I am placing my trust in personal accomplishments? How can I make sure that Jesus is the focal point of my hope, trust, and confidence?

Journal:

- What are the accomplishments and spiritual activities that you are tempted to put your trust in and act like they make you more acceptable in God's sight?
- How can you focus your heart and life on Jesus so that you trust in him alone, and then embrace spiritual growth as a response to his amazing grace?

Pray: Pray for eyes to see where spiritual pride has taken root in your heart and pray for courage to set aside anything that has become a source of false confidence based on your own religious activity.

DAY 31

Read: Philippians 3:7-11 Read this passage two or three times, and notice what Paul was willing to give up for the sake of Jesus.

Reflect: No comparison! That is what Paul is saying. Everything in this world compared to Jesus is nothing. Pile up every prize, possession, and praise from the world and Paul says you have a big heap of garbage! To be clear, the Bible is not teaching us that all these things are worthless. What we need to learn is that, next to Jesus, they all pale in comparison. If we must choose between Jesus or anything else, the reflexive response should always be the obvious....Jesus! When you compare Jesus to the things of this world, what do you value most?

Journal:

- What are the praises, prizes, and possessions you enjoy the most in this life?
- How is Jesus better, superior, more valuable than each of these things?

Pray: Ask God to help you enjoy every good gift you have in this life, but always remember the giver of the gift is Jesus and he is worth more than all this world offers.

DAY 32

Read: Philippians 3:12-14. Read this passage 3 or 4 times and reflect on the spirit of perseverance and relentless forward movement.

Reflect: Quitting is easy. It has become a national pastime for many. When the going gets rough, cash in and watch Netflix! But God speaks into our world and hearts and calls us to press on, strain forward, and follow Jesus no matter what the cost. There is an eternal prize and heaven is real. So, until we see Jesus face to face, we are invited to strive toward all Jesus has for us in this world and after this life. What discourages you and makes you feel like giving up?

Journal:

- When have you given up, cashed in, or put your faith in neutral for a season? What caused this?
- How can you keep pressing on and continue to follow Jesus, even when times are rough?

Pray: Ask God to show you any area of your spiritual life where you have been coasting or not really pressing forward. Pray for power to fix your eyes on Jesus and keep following him with joy and passion, no matter what you face.

DAY 33

Read: Philippians 3:15-17. Read this passage 2 or 3 times and notice the call to follow good examples.

Reflect: We will all follow someone. The choice we have is who will it be. Countless groups, people, and communities invite us to join them. The advent of social media and the internet has created a place for every possible interest group and ideology to be represented. Good or bad, they are all out there. Through history, parents have known that their kids will be shaped by who they spend time with. Friends become examples and character is established through close relationships. What is true in the world is just as real in the church. With this in mind, the apostle Paul calls the Philippian Christians to follow his example and keep their eyes on people who live in a way that honors Jesus. Who do you follow and how are they influencing for who you are becoming?

Journal:

- It's not just kids who are influenced by the people they hang around with. How are you being influenced (for good or bad) by the people you spend the most time with?
- What can you do to increase connections and contacts with great people who model a life of faithfulness to Jesus? How can you minimize negative influence in your life by decreasing time with people who are dragging you down spiritually?

Pray: Pray that your life and love for Jesus would be a great example for others and that people around you will become more and more like Jesus.

DAY 34

Read: Philippians 3:18-22. Read this passage 2 or 3 times and notice where we find true citizenship and home.

Reflect: Our citizenship is heaven. We might have a passport from the country where we are a legal citizen, but those who have received the Holy Ghost and follow Jesus as their lord, belong to him and heaven is our true and eternal home. When times are hard (don't forget, Paul is writing from a jail cell), we need to lift up our eyes from the pain of this life and remember who we are, where we are going, and fix our gaze on the one who has gone ahead of us to prepare a place. When you face hard times, where do you tend to focus your eyes and heart?

Journal:

- What are some of the best rights and privileges you have as a citizen of the U.S?
- What are some of the rights and privileges you have as a citizen of heaven? How can you experience some of those benefits right now?

Pray: Thank God for the blessings of being a Christian and give him praise for the benefits you are experiencing now and those you will experience forever.

DAY 35

Memorize: Conclude this week's personal study by again reciting **Philippians 3:10**:

¹⁰ That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death

Reflect: On the first day of this week's study, we reflected on how the resurrection of Jesus helps us know him better. Today we look at the second way we get to know Jesus better. This one is less attractive but just as important. We share in this suffering! How do you get to know someone well? You experience what they have experienced. For Jesus, he faced incredible amounts of suffering as he left heaven, entered our world, lived a blameless life, died on the cross, and paid the price for our sins. As we learn about Jesus' suffering for the sake of his name, we will know Jesus more and more. What steps of faithful obedience and radical surrender can you take that might cause you to experience suffering as you follow Jesus? What specific steps will you take this week, even if it comes with some sort of suffering?