

## Sanctified in Knowing God

December 31, 2017

### Philippians 3:1-2 ESV

**1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.**

**2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.**

*Romans 10:2-5 ESV*

*2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.*

*3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.*

*4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

*5 For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.*

*"The greatest enemy to human souls is the self-righteous spirit which makes men look to themselves for salvation."*

—C.H. Spurgeon

*"It is easier to save us from our sins than from our righteousness." —C.H. Spurgeon*

### Philippians 3:3 ESV

**3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh--**

*"The paradox is that God must destroy in us, all illusions of righteousness before he can make us righteous."*

— Martin Luther

*Luke 22:61-62 ESV*

*61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."*

*62 And he went out and wept bitterly.*

*Romans 7:18 ESV*

*18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*

*Romans 7:24 ESV*

*24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

*Colossians 2:11-12 ESV*

*11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,*

*12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.*

### Philippians 3:4-6 ESV

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;

6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

*The foolishness of priding ourselves in:*

- who we are
- what we can do

*"Beware of self-righteousness. The black devil of licentiousness destroys his hundreds, but the white devil of self-righteousness destroys his thousands." —C.H. Spurgeon*

*Isaiah 64:6 ESV*

6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

*"The saints are sinners still. Our best tears need to be wept over, the strongest faith is mixed with unbelief, our most flaming love is cold compared with what Jesus deserves, and our intensest zeal still lacks the full fervor which the bleeding wounds and pierced heart of the crucified might claim at our hands. Our best things need a sin offering, or they would condemn us." —C.H. Spurgeon*

### Philippians 3:7-8 ESV

7 **But whatever gain I had, I counted** (*hēgeomai* - to lead, command, have authority over, account, consider, esteem, deem, think, suppose) **as loss for the sake of Christ**.

8 **Indeed, I count** (*hēgeomai*) **everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ**

*"Let me try to show precisely and particularly what it costs to be a true Christian...First, it will cost him his self-righteousness. He must cast away all pride, high thoughts, and conceit of his own goodness. He must be content to go to heaven as a poor sinner saved only by free grace and owing all to the merit and righteousness of another. He must be willing to give up all trust in his own morality, respectability, praying, Bible-reading, church-going, and sacrament-receiving, and trust in nothing but Jesus Christ."*

—J.C. Ryle, from his sermon "Counting the Cost"

*Galatians 5:2-6 ESV*

2 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you.

3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.

4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

*"Accept that position, and maintain it before God: 'My heart's desire and delight, O God, is absolute surrender, but I cannot perform it. It is impossible for me to live that life. It is beyond me.' Fall down and learn that when you are utterly helpless, God will come to work in you not only to will, but also to do."*

—Andrew Murray, *Absolute Surrender*, p. 69

*"Beware of self-righteousness in every possible shape and form. Some people get as much harm from their 'virtues' as others do from their sins."*

--J.C. Ryle

### **Philippians 3:9-11 ESV**

**9 and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith--**

**10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death,**

**11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.**

- *To know God in a continual living, growing and satisfying fellowship spontaneously activates and enables within our heart the full power and potential of being crucified in Christ and reborn in His resurrection.*
- *Living above our fleshly passions in the power of His resurrection occurs as the direct consequence of knowing Him, with no effort or discipline of our own.*
- *To live under the Law is to live in the futility of always trying harder but becoming more and more under bondage to the sin.*
- *To live by the Holy Spirit is to be so engrossed and occupied with knowing Him, that temptations and sins fall away with little or no notice.*

### *Galatians 5:16-18 ESV*

*16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

*17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

*18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

*"The man who has struggled to purify himself and has had nothing but repeated failures will experience real relief when he stops tinkering with his soul and looks away to the perfect One. While he looks at Christ the very things he has so long been trying to do will be getting done within him. It will be God working in him to will and to do."*

— A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

### **Philippians 3:12 ESV**

**12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.**

*Having been very clear that righteousness and sanctification are impossible in and of our own efforts and disciplines, Paul now brings the balance of Truth - righteousness and sanctification are impossible without our surrender and cooperation with the Holy Spirit.*

*Philippians 2:12-13 ESV*

*12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

*13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

*1 Corinthians 15:10 ESV*

*10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*

### **Philippians 3:13 ESV**

**13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,**

*There are two dangers in looking behind into the past:*

- 1. Becoming proud over the good that you see.*
- 2. Being defined by the bad that you see (and despairing of the hope of salvation).*

*There can be NO forward progress as long as you're lingering and contemplating the past.*

*Isaiah 43:18-19 ESV*

*18 "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.*

*19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

### **Philippians 3:14 ESV**

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