

**First Mount Zion Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
October 2, 2024
Philippians 3:1-21**

Presenter: Rev. Kathy Russell -- 11:00 a.m. Presenter: Rev. Helen Parker - - 7:30 p.m.

Background: Philippians is the apostle Paul's thank-you letter to the believers in the Macedonian city of Philippi for their help in his hour of need. Repeatedly he communicates one central thought: only in Christ can we experience real unity and joy. With the Lord as our model of love and grace, we can enjoy a oneness of purpose, attitude, goal, and labor. Paul stressed unity because believers in the Philippian church were from very diverse backgrounds and sometimes at odds with one another. This hindered the work of proclaiming new life in Christ.

In chapter 3 Paul records that Christ is the correct focus during times of adversity. First, Paul discusses the importance of righteousness through faith in Christ rather than by works (Philippians 3:1-11). Secondly, Paul talks about pressing toward the goal of following Christ (Philippians 3:12-21). Paul warns the Philippian church against trying to form a relationship with God based on the principle of the law. He also warns them against the troublemaking legalists who attempted to deceive the Philippians.

Outline

- I.The True Authority of Paul's Righteousness (3:1-11)**
- II.Paul's Aim: Move Forward And Upward Toward The Goal (3:12-16)**
- III.Paul's Instruction: Follow Those Who Claim Heavenly Citizenship (3:17-21)**

Objective: To emphasize the importance of developing spiritual maturity and remaining faithful.

Verse 1

1. What "same things" is Paul referring to in this passage?

Verse 2

2. Who are the "dogs" that Paul warns the Philippian church about, and what are they trying to do?

Verses 4-6

3. Why does Paul say he may be "justified" in having confidence in the flesh?

Verses 7-11

4. How does Paul view his earthly citizenship and accomplishments?

Verse 15

5. As many as are “mature” should have this mind. What is Paul referencing?

Verses 18-19

6. Who are the enemies of the cross?

Verse 21

7. What does Paul encourage believers to do?

Application:

1. Paul invites believers to join in following his example. How might you join Paul?
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal if there are ways you may be trying to earn or achieve “your own righteousness”.
3. Prayerfully make a list of things from the past you need to “forget” as you move forward toward the “upward” call.
4. Seek to know and to live with the authority you have been given as a citizen of Heaven!