

Philippians 3:1 begins right off the bat with a directive to Christ-centeredness - "Rejoice... in the Lord". Make Christ - and Christ alone - your pride and your prize, and you will know His joy. Implicit in this command is one of the greatest threats to the joy of our salvation - adding anything to Christ! To delight in Christ - and Christ alone - is our safeguard against such an error. Why? All the righteousness of God, all the covenant promises, all the rest and peace we were made for is in Him. To put "confidence" (3:3) in anything self originating is to experience a corresponding loss of joy.

In verses 7 and 8 of chapter 3 Paul begins to use the language of business and economics. He speaks of profit and loss. "For the sake of Christ" - Christ had literally stepped in between Paul and his former economy - all his conclusions about value and worth needed to be changed. What he once thought to be "profit", the things he esteemed - what he believed would give him currency with God and others - had to be rejected. They were not merely neutral (worth "zero"), but rather were detrimental (a "minus")! When the Holy Spirit audited the books of Paul's life with Christ as the standard, all the credentials he had banked upon rendered him bankrupt.

In view of the "surpassing value" of Christ, what he once thought to be assets were actually liabilities. God's estimate of the value of all Paul's religious achievements apart from Christ? "Rubbish, dung"! It is one thing to have an empty house, it is quite another to have a house full of garbage, full of excrement. To "gain/profit" from Christ, Paul had to be willing to toss out the garbage. In order to make room for the "Pearl of Great Price", Paul had to "sell all his once revered assets". To be "found in Christ" (v9), Paul had to "suffer loss" and "count" all self made gains as God measured them to be - "losses". In order to receive and experience the "righteousness which comes from God" (v19), Paul had to renounce and expel all righteousness derived from self effort.

In God's economy, righteousness - rightness with God and within ourselves - is freely given. It is the righteousness which "comes from God Himself" and, therefore, can only be received "through faith in Christ." (v9) What Christ did for us is never true of us until He is in us. We are never righteous until the Righteous One is in us. We are never justified unless the Justifier is in us. We are never sanctified unless the Sanctifier is in us.

No wonder we are to "rejoice in the Lord"... all we need is in Him!

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# GREETINGS



“The earth is never stable.” I had an 8th grade science teacher who started every lesson with that sentence. From there, he went on to expound upon the ever changing makeup of our planet.

It’s always been true, but the rapidity and scale of change certainly seems to be more extreme these days. Whether it’s the weather, the technology, or even the people who so quickly come and go in our mobile society, “the times, they are a-changin!”

All the more reason to center in the certain and unchangeable things of God. Make it a regular practice every day this month to “abide” - be at home in - the holy constants of God, the things that never change. See if the anxiety, the fatigue, the frustration doesn’t lesson a bit. See if the peace, the energy, the rest of God does not begin to rise and flow in and through us. Let’s find out what we were really made for!



# CALENDAR



## JUNE

1,8,15,22	CCF
10	Alachua Study
24	Ocala Study
27-29	Bar Harbor, ME

## JULY

10-11	Asheville, NC (828-348-9146)
12	Boone, NC (828-348-9146)
13	Asheville, NC (828-348-9146)

## AUGUST

9-10	Milton, FL (850-983-2494)
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What God has already “worked into” us



The freedom we have to “work it out”



CCF pastor search



Conferences and retreats