

Knowing *Christ*

Lessons from Paul's
Life and Ministry

Joy in Christ
Philippians 3:1-21
Lesson 18



The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking for clues to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure laying just under the surface. First, read the whole passage in context. Pay attention to the paragraph breaks to gain the whole thought, as it relates to the whole text. Are there words that lead you to look before or after the passage to gain the full context? There is a saying, "Whenever you see the word 'therefore' look to see what it is there... for." The word "and" tells us that something else goes with it, maybe to show contrast, or similarities, or even a series. Repeated words or phrases, help us discover the main thought of the author. The text will speak for itself, be careful not to read in your own assumptions. The bible interprets itself, so if you ask a question of it, the answer will be found within the pages of scripture.

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight words or thoughts to you as you begin to carefully read the text over several times. Reading it in different translations helps you gain more insight. Use the text provided in the lesson as a worksheet. **Mark the text** in whatever way that helps you the most. Colored pencils are helpful, looking up words in dictionaries, or cross-references help you gain further insight and fill in the details. Read thoughtfully and prayerfully and see what the Lord wants to show you. Each week will be an exciting journey as you place your feet in the imprints that Paul left us on his journey to *knowing Christ* more intimately.

Lesson Text

Phil 3:1-6

1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.

2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Phil 3:7-16

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

Phil 3:17-21

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame — who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.



Looking for Gold - *What does it say?*

Like a miner looking for a gold vein, read the section and record what you see. Keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage by **marking your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts, similarities. Look for answers to questions that answer, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How? Briefly describe, in your own words the clues you find. Do your best to follow the authors train of thought as to what he is trying to say?

Read Phil 3:1-21

Record what stands out to you as you read



Digging Deeper

Use this section to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind as you look for correlating evidence in other parts of scripture through cross-references. Dig deeper into the meaning of words that stick out to you or are repeated. Background information in encyclopedias or dictionaries or handbooks bring the passage alive. Keep your eyes open to find any commands to obey, or questions to be answered etc.

Challenge: Use your cross-references, word-studies or encyclopedias to fill in the details and dig deeper into the meaning of the passage. Record what you find.



Boiling it Down - What does it mean?

Now is the time to boil down what you have found. What lessons can you draw from what you have seen. There may be multiple lessons, **state each in a simple sentence.**

What LESSONS can I draw from my observations?



Refined as Gold - How can I apply it?

What steps do I need to take to APPLY each lesson? Your applications should suggest a course of action. **Record an application for each lesson.**

Challenge: Use your cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up your lessons.



Storing up Your Treasure . . .

Checking for Clarity: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** in one or two words. This helps you fully understand what author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch his vision?

Phil 3:1-6 _____

Phil 3:7-16 _____

Phil 3:17-21 _____

Bars of Gold: Try to state the main content of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles: Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

Hide Your Treasure in your Heart:

Phil 3:13-14 . . . one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. NKJV



Radiating His Truth . . .

Fix your attention on Him. He may not change your situation, but He will change you;
and that is even better. -Warren Wiersbe

