Staying Focused on Christ (Phil. 3:1–16)
October 25, 2026

TEXT--Phil.3:1-16

MAIN IDEA: Staying focused on Christ means rejecting the lie of works, receiving the truth of faith in Christ alone, and pressing on toward the prize.

ACTION 1: REJECT THE LIE OF SALVATION BY WORKS (Phil. 3:1–6) — 5 min

Paul reminds the Philippians that true joy is found 'in the Lord', not in their religious performance (V1); instead they're to watch out for those who add works to grace- false teachers (V2).

True faith places confidence in Christ and not in our human credentials (V3). Though Paul had an impressive resume of external law keeping, he learned that his works were eternally insufficient (V4-6).

Rom.3:19-20

Application--Every one of us carries a spiritual résumé — church attendance, baptism, tithing, being a "good person," family heritage. These may be good things, but none of them can make you right with God.

***Ask yourself honestly: "If God asked me why he should accept me, what one thing would I point to?" Whatever you point to other than Christ is the very thing you must be willing to count as loss. Good works are the fruit of salvation.**

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ACTION 2: RECEIVE THE TRUTH THAT SALVATION IS BY FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE (Phil. 3:7–11) — 6 min. These verses challenge us to re-evaluate everything in light of our relationship with Christ (V7). Paul counts everything as loss — his failures, and his achievements — compared to "the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord (V9)."

V8-9 give us the heart of the gospel: "a righteousness of my own that comes from the law" versus "the righteousness from God that depends on faith." This is the great exchange — Christ's perfect record credited to the believer, received by faith alone, not earned by our law-keeping. V10-11 invite us to pursue knowing Christ personally.

Gal.2:15-16

Jerry Bridges—*Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace and your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace. Every day of our Christian experience should be a day of relating to God on the basis of His grace alone.*

Application--To the person who is not yet a Christian: stop trying to earn God's acceptance and trust Christ. You do not clean yourself up to come to Christ; you come to Christ to be cleansed. Faith — not feelings, not effort — receives his righteousness.

To the believer: is knowing Christ your supreme treasure, or just your eternal insurance policy? Verse 8 says the worth of knowing him surpasses everything. If Christ is not your greatest gain, you have lost focus.

ACTION 3: PRESS ON TO WIN THE PRIZE (Phil. 3:12–16) — 5 min. Grace fuels effort; effort does not fuel grace. Paul humbly pressed on to grow in Christ because Christ made (him) his

own. Paul is simply responding to God's grace. Pressing on in Christ involves forgetting & straining (V13).

1 Cor.9:24-27

Application--Name the past failure that keeps you trapped in guilt, or the past achievement that keeps you resting on what you've done. Confess it, release it, and refuse to let it govern your present.

***Take one concrete step of obedience this week: a daily time in the Word and prayer, a phone call to a broken relationship you need to restore, a place of service in the church.**