



THIS JOY THAT I HAVE
A Journey Through Philippians
Philippians 3:10-21

Series Aim: To equip and encourage believers to embrace and choose joy in every season of life.

A NEW PRIORITY v. 10

Being converted, Paul suddenly has new priority in life. The knowledge of Christ became the chief pursuit in his life. He wants to know Christ more deeply and have a more intimate relationship with him. He wants to enter a closer, experiential fellowship, a more intimate communion.

A NEW POWER v. 10

Paul also gained a new power for his life. Paul wants to experience more of the power of Christ in his life. He does not want to live a mundane Christian life that could be easily explained by his own natural abilities. But for this to happen, he needs to know the resurrection power of Christ surging through his soul.

A NEW PERSECUTION v. 10

With Paul's new faith in Christ, came a new persecution. Paul understands that the more he grows to know Christ and to make him known, the more he is being called upon to suffer for him.

A NEW PROSPECT v. 11

Paul looks to the future and affirms that a glorious prospect awaits him. Because of his deep partnership with Christ in the suffering of his death, he will also share in the resurrection of Christ at the end of the age. Jesus Christ is the first fruit of the resurrection and Paul, along with every believer in Him, will be part of the full harvest, raised to share in Christ glory. **John 11:25, John 14:19**

A NEW PURSUIT vv. 12-14

Paul states that this new relationship with Christ means a new pursuit after Christ. Faith is always active and dynamic, always moving us our and forward. Paul is acknowledging that he has not come to a point in his spiritual life where he can say he has arrived.

A NEW MINDSET v. 15

Paul begins a new section; he calls for having the right attitude. When the apostle writes "therefore", he is looking back to what he has written immediately before. Paul is not allowing what is behind to excuse him from pressing forward. Instead, he is running hard each day after Christ-likeness, looking forward to the finish line of his "upward call" to heaven.

A NEW INSIGHT v. 15

Paul adds, "and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you." He is alluding to the fact that there has been wrong thinking about the need to press on. In the Christian life, there must be no room for passivity.

A NEW STANDARD v. 16

The Christian life requires the exertion of continually running hard after godliness. Paul explains, the Christian life must be lived in accordance with an established standard. The "same standard" is the unchanging word of God. Specifically, it refers to the sound teaching of Jesus Christ and the apostles.

FINDING MENTORS v. 17

Any growth in godliness is enhanced when we are influenced by the right spiritual mentors. Paul encourages his readers to find mentors who could help them on their journey. They must have brothers and sisters in Christ who are modeling Christianity and are worthy of their emulation.

BEST AVOIDED v. 18

Just as we must find good examples to emulate, we must also realize that there are bad examples to avoid. False teachers have come to the church and are spreading their deadly poison. Paul identifies them as "enemies of the cross."

CITIZENS OF A HIGHER KINGDOM vv. 20-21

As Paul concludes this section, he directs the attention of the Philippians upward to heaven in anticipation of the return of Christ. In the first century, "citizenship" referred to a colony of non-citizens living in a foreign land. Paul is reminding them that even though they live in the Roman colony of Philippi, their real citizenship is in another place.