

#getoveryourselfie

Devotions

READ | UNDERSTAND | APPLY



Monday: Watch Out

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Philippians 3:1-3

¹ Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. ² Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage Paul warns the Philippians to watch out for false teachers who claim to follow Christ but are actually following religious rules and traditions. This trouble with false teachers was a constant problem in the early church. Paul calls these false teachers dogs. He is not referring to pet dogs (Greek: *kunarion*) but rather wild, dirty, and vicious dogs (Greek: *kyōn*). These false teachers were trying to pull people away from the gospel and back into religious rituals. The same is true today. There will always be false teachers. Therefore, we must be on guard.

Takeaway: Our confidence is in our relationship, not our religion.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

How does religion deceive us into thinking we're better than we actually are?

How does religion interfere with our relationship with God?

PRAY: Ask God to help you focus on your relationship with Him and not religion.

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Tuesday: False Confidence

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Philippians 3:4-7

⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage Paul describes how committed he was to his Jewish faith before coming to Christ. Since Paul was a devout Pharisee, he was in the religious elite of his day. Pharisees were religious and legalistic to the extreme. Because of their obedience to the Law, the Pharisees believed they were “special” in God’s eyes. This caused them to have a false sense of godliness which they used to oppress and mistreat people. Paul realized that all of the religious gain in his past was self-centered and therefore worthless.

Takeaway: Self-centered gain is worthless in the end (Matthew 16:24-26).

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

In what ways have you thought too highly of yourself?

What do you really gain from self-centered accomplishments?

PRAY: Ask God to help you live your life for the sake of Christ.

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Wednesday: Knowing Christ

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Philippians 3:7-9

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage Paul tells us that nothing is as important as “the surpassing worth” (incomparable worth) of knowing Christ personally. For Paul, the goal of the Christians life is to know and gain Christ personally. This is a stark contrast to Paul’s former life of religious tradition and ritual. Our goal is not religious recognition or even rewards in heaven. Knowing Christ and receiving His righteousness is the ultimate goal.

Takeaway: Our self-righteous deeds cannot compare to knowing Christ.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

What does it mean to “know Christ”?

How should knowing Christ change how you view yourself?

How should knowing Christ change what is important to you?

PRAY: Ask God to help you stay focused on knowing Him more.

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Thursday: Becoming Like Christ

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Philippians 3:10

¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage Paul teaches us that knowing Christ leads to becoming more like Christ. Paul lists a few concepts here that are very important to understand. To “know the power of his resurrection” is a common idea in Paul’s writings (see Ephesians 1:18-23). Sometimes we forget that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that now lives in us. To “participate in his sufferings” refers to the persecution the early church faced. Paul wanted to know Christ so closely that he experienced the same persecution and ultimately died for his faith, which is why he says “becoming like him in his death.”

Takeaway: The more we get to know Christ, the more we become like Christ.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

How can you get to know Christ better?

In what ways do you need to become more like Christ?

PRAY: Ask God to help you see the areas where you need to become more like Christ.

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Friday: Forget the Past

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Philippians 3:12-14

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

1. Begin by underlining nouns with a single line, double underline verbs, and circle descriptive words.
2. Make a list of the key words/phrases and think about what they mean.

Snapshot: In this passage Paul teaches us that in order to make progress in our faith we must stop living in the past and press on toward the future. Paul had a very religious and yet very ugly past. Sure he was morally good by the standards of the religious elite. But he also persecuted the church violently before his conversion. So if you think your past is bad, think again. Your past sins have been forgiven.

Takeaway: Your past does not define or determine your future.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

What in your past is hindering you from growing in your faith?

In what ways do you need to “press on” toward the future?

PRAY: Ask God to help you leave your past behind.

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Saturday: Prepare for Sunday

REVIEW: Take a few minutes to make a list of what you've learned this week.

PRAY: Ask God to use this time to help you get familiar with Sunday's scripture passage.

READ: Philippians 3:15-21

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

THINK: *Go ahead and underline key words and phrases.*

Start thinking about what this passage is saying.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you think is the main idea?
- What parts are confusing or hard to understand?
- How might this passage help you to follow Jesus better?

PRAY: Ask God to prepare you for tomorrow's worship service.