

OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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BIBLE STUDY – PHILLIPIANS CHAPTER – THREE
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“THE DISTINGUISHING MARKS OF TRUE BELIEVERS”
Philippians 3: 1 – 11

INTRO:

The good news of forgiveness and eternal life is the heart of the New Testament message. But it also challenges professing believers to examine themselves make certain their faith is genuine. In Philippians 3: 1-3, Paul adds to the biblical teaching of distinguishing between genuine and false faith. Both implicitly and explicitly, he presents qualities five qualities of true believers:

- 1). They rejoice in the Lord
- 2). Exercise discernment
- 3). Worship in the Spirit
- 4). Glory in Christ Jesus
- 5). Put on confidence in the flesh

My friends, this autobiographical passage introduces Paul’s dramatic and compelling salvation testimony. It is also one of the most significant statements of the doctrine of salvation in Scripture, revealing the internal work of God in a truly repentant and believing sinner.

Some key words in this passage:

- Finally
- dogs
- evil workers
- mutilation
- we are the circumcision
- worship God in the Spirit
- no confidence in the flesh
- Pharisee
- knowledge of Christ Jesus
- be found in Him

“REACHING FOR THE PRIZE”
Philippians 3: 12 – 21

Judging from the frequent use of athletic metaphors in his writings, the apostle Paul must have been a sports fan. For, he made reference to boxing, wrestling, and the Isthmian games (1 Cor. 9:25-26; Eph. 6:12). I love studying Paul's writing as he draws from such imagery, and I believe his favorite was that of a footrace (Acts 20:24; Rom. 9:16; 1 Cor. 9:24; 2 Tim. 4:7), and it is this metaphor of the Christian life that is the theme of this passage. Here we see Paul's passionate concern for spiritual growth.

Having heard Paul's remarkable testimony of transformation, some people in Philippi might have mistakenly assumed that Paul had reached spiritual perfection. Oak Ridge this a great lesson for us too.... But Paul was still subject to temptation, still possessed his unredeemed flesh, and was still a sinner. Far from having obtained perfection, he was pursuing it with all his might. Paul understood that the Christian life is a lifelong process of "grow[ing] in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18 NKJV).

The exhortations: 3: 15 – 21

- 1). To proper attitude
- 2). To imitation
 - a. the commands: follow and observe
 - b. the reasons:
 - Godless examples v 18-19
 - Heavenly citizenship v 20-21

Some key words in the passage:

- apprehended
- one thing I do
- forgettingwhich are behind
- the goal
- the prize
- the upward call of God
- having this mind
- my example
- enemies of the cross
- end is destruction
- earthly things
- our citizenship
- in heaven
- subdue