

# THANKS!

## The Better Stuff to be Thankful For (Philippians 3)

Thanks!, Part 3

Jason Denison, Worship Pastor ♦ November 21 & 23, 2014

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### How to be happy in prison.

*Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.*

Philippians 3:1

- **Paul sees the universe as personal.**

*<sup>2</sup>Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; <sup>3</sup> for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,...*

Philippians 3:2–3

- **He tends to find his reward in Christ.**

*<sup>4</sup> although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever things were gain to me (reward), those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ("I get Christ") <sup>8</sup> More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,...*

Philippians 3:4–8

When Christ is your reward, stubborn joy follows.

- **Your symbols point to what you currently find most rewarding.**

*...<sup>9</sup> and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; <sup>11</sup> in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that (**Christ: being found in Him**) for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus (**to be found in Him**).*

Philippians 3:9–12

- **He recalls that God laid hold of him.**

*<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:13–14

- **He doesn't dwell on the broken past.**

- **He presses toward the goal — Christ.**

*<sup>15</sup> Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; <sup>16</sup> however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained. <sup>17</sup> Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, <sup>19</sup> whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 3:15–20

- **He lived in anticipation of a coming reality.**

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