

Philippians 3

Translated by Nijay Gupta

1 Furthermore, my dear brothers and sisters, celebrate in the Lord. It is no bother for me to write the same things to you, and it brings you assurance. 2 Beware, I say: Beware of the wild dogs! Beware of tricky evildoers! Beware of wound-makers! 3 In fact, we are the “circumcision” people, we worship tuned into the Spirit of God, and we look for honor in Christ Jesus and take no pride in our flesh. 4 Keep in mind, I could also claim pride in my flesh. If there is anyone who might dare to take pride in the flesh, I would out rank them easily. 5 Take note of my resume: Circumcised on the 8th day? Check. A true member of Israel? Check. Moreover, I belong to the noble tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews. In my observance of the law, a Pharisee, 6 in proof of my zeal for Jewish piety, I hunted members of the church. As for righteous status according to the Jewish Law, I was faultless. Christ, the New Standard of Value (3:7–14) 7 But whatever I had considered in my favor and for my honor beforehand, now all these things have lost their value when Christ entered the equation. 8 That is even putting it mildly. I have to treat all things that defined my life as worthless when I compare them to the vast wealth of knowing Christ Jesus as my Lord—by turning to him, I left behind everything, and to me they are worthless junk. It must be this way for Christ to become the new standard and summation of true value, 9 and now I bank on finding my honor and worth in him, forsaking any claim to a right standing according to the Law. Rather, it is through faith in Christ, a right standing bestowed directly from God received by our trust in Christ. 10 My aim is to know Christ, to experience his resurrection power, and share in his suffering, even imitating his kind of death, 11 and so mysteriously reach the final destination of the resurrection from the dead. 12 Don’t misunderstand me. I have not obtained this or reached the final goal, but this is what I am pursuing in order to catch it, because with even more passion did Christ Jesus grab ahold of me. 13 My dear brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have already reached this goal, but I have learned one key thing: forget what is behind me and continue to reach for what is ahead. 14 Focused singularly on the goal, I chase after the prize of obedience to the high calling by God which I pursue in Christ Jesus. A Warning to the “Perfect” (3:15–16) 15 Whoever thinks they are “perfect,” let us share such a mindset—and if any of you proposes another way to look at it, I trust God will reveal how you have thought wrongly. 16 But let us live in accordance with what we have obtained. Choosing the Right Role Models (3:17–19) 17 Take me as your model to imitate, my dear brothers and sisters, and observe those who live with us as their life-pattern. 18 Be warned—just as we used to caution you on many occasions, and even now I lament having to bring them up again—many live their lives as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their fate is ruin; their “god” is their own belly, what they honor is actually their shame; their mindset is not spiritual, but worldly. 20 So you must remember that our commonwealth and citizen identity belongs to the heavens, and for now we long for and anticipate the coming of our rescuer, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21 He will convert our humble body into his glorious body form by the same power he will use to finally put all things in order in the world.