

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Theme:

“OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL!”

Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK.

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Lesson: 22

Chapter 3:11-14

Date: 2-16-20



BIBLE TEXT:

(1) Finally, my brothers, rejoice in **the Lord**. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. (2) Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. (3) For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the **Spirit of God** and glory in **Christ Jesus** and put no confidence in the flesh—

(4) though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for 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; as to the law, a Pharisee; (6) as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless.

(7) But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of **Christ**. (8) Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing **Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order 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 comes through faith in **Christ**, the righteousness from **God** that depends on faith-- (10) that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

(11) that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (12) Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because **Christ Jesus** has made me his own. (13) Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of **the upward call of God in Christ Jesus**.

(15) Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, **God** will reveal that also to you. (16) Only let us hold true to what we have attained. (17) Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. (18) For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of **the cross of Christ**. (19) Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

(20) But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a **Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

STUDY NOTES:

1. Somehow through involvement and concern, to share in his resurrection
(**Dan 12:2; Jn 5:29;11:24; Ac 24:15; 26:7,8; 1 Cor 15:23;**
1 Th 4:16; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Rev 20:5,6)
2. The race of the Christian life – don't look behind - must run it till the finish line
(**Mt 24:13; Lk 9:62;**
1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:6-8; Heb 3:1; 5:9; 6:1; 11:40; 12:1,23)
3. The upward heavenly call and prize of God in Christ Jesus
(**Jn 1:12,13; 6:44; 12:32; Acts 9:5,6; Rom 8:28; 1 Cor 9:24-27;**
Col 3:1,2; 1 Pet. 5:10; 1 John 5:4,5; Rev 2:10; 3:11)

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. When did **Christ Jesus** make you his own?
2. How do you press on to make it your own, forgetting what lies behind, straining forward to what lies ahead, you press on toward the goal for the prize of **the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?**

LUTHER'S WORKS: Vol. 11, p. 148 – Exposition of Psalm 84 – The Upward Call

“In his heart he has disposed **upward paths**” means the same as “the ways are in his heart.” For the ways of God are the truest steps and **grand means of ascent**, for they are stairways to the kingdom of heaven. Unless a person disposes them in his heart in order to climb them cheerfully, they will not only be difficult but even impossible. But the fact that he disposes it in his heart is made possible by the help of the grace of Christ...But by a remarkable expression it has the same in these two words, *ascensiones disposuit* (“he has disposed **upward paths**”). For **he who ascends** certainly does not only cross over out of this world, but it denotes where he is crossing to, namely, upward, where Christ is.

And he performs the Lord's passover and the ascent at the same time. And one who disposes his ways and ascents to God, how can he fail to cross over the world and to regard it as a place of exile? And his “disposing” means that he walks the ways of God with caution and deliberation, so as not to run up against the noonday devil (Ps. 91:6).

And indeed, **he who wants to ascend** has great need of disposing and wisely arranging everything he does. This word *disponit* (“dispose”) is a remarkable word, about which more is said elsewhere. As for the “vale of tears,” (v. 6) as stated above, it is clear that it must be understood in a similar manner. He crosses over the valley, but he **disposes the ascent**, for the former is not interested in the things that are destined to perish, while the latter is concerned about the things that abide and that must be established forever. Or, he disposes, that is, he lays up as treasure what is permanent in **the heavenly kingdom**, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys (Luke 12:33).”