

# PHILIPPIANS: A LETTER FROM LOCKDOWN WEEK 3

## DAY 1: READ PHILIPPIANS 3:1

For many new Christ-followers, it can be hard to trust God when we don't "feel" His presence or sense the ways He's at work. As we learn to no longer rely on our feelings to sense God's presence, we, too, must choose to worship the Lord at all times in all circumstances, no matter how we feel. Whether we're in lockdown or find ourselves with an abundant harvest, He must always be the focus of our worship. Today, start your week by rejoicing in the Lord. What has He taught you lately? What are you thankful for or excited about. Tell Him!

## DAY 2: READ PHILIPPIANS 3:2-3 & ACTS 15:1-21

Paul is calling out the false pride of the Jews in their physical circumcision; they have missed the true purpose of being set aside. As people who have chosen to put our flesh to death for the covering, saving blood of the crucified, risen Savior, our circumcision is a mark of pride, but not in ourselves. Our pride is Jesus Christ. Our hope is not in our flesh, which has been put to death, but is instead in Jesus Christ. We, being covered by Jesus' blood and gifted with the Holy Spirit get to rejoice in completeness with Him and worship Him, proudly proclaiming the risen Jesus. What does it mean to worship Him "by the Spirit of God" in Philippians 3:3? What does that look like for you?

## DAY 3: READ PHILIPPIANS 3:2-7

Paul was fully entitled to have pride in his religious status above everyone else (and he did), but when he encountered the living, risen Savior, he threw all of that heritage and superiority away. As Christ-followers, we are sure to encounter people who elevate themselves above others because of some arbitrary, non-Christly facet. Perhaps we've been that person. But what does Paul take pride in? Only Jesus Christ. Do you value something above Jesus? Are you still clinging to something or staking your pride in anything other than Jesus? Give it up and see He's better.

# Philippians

a letter from lockdown

#### **DAY 4: READ PHILIPPIANS 3:8-11 & ISAIAH 43:18-21**

When God makes us a new creation, it's new. Not refurbished, not used, not a scratch-and-dent special. When we cling to the old loves, past wounds and broken things from before we knew Jesus, we tell God He's not welcome in our lives and that His work isn't good enough. Stop telling God no for transforming us into vessels for His worship and the rescue of others. Let's be like Paul and strive in obedience, humility and zealous love to share in Jesus' sufferings and become like Him in death.

#### **DAY 5: READ PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16**

It's a new day. Have you left the former things from your past yet? Are you still struggling with what's behind you? Don't let it discourage you. Let's strive forward only toward Jesus. Everything else is a distraction. Let's respond to His call of grace with faithful belief and intentional action.

#### **DAY 6: READ PHILIPPIANS 3:17-19**

When we take our eyes off of Jesus, we fix our eyes on imperfect, failing things that will destroy us. Our only hope is in Jesus. Let's strive with others to mimic the perfect example of Christ Jesus. Anything or anyone else will leave us hungry, hurting, angry and dead. As Christians, when we fix our eyes on others, we get discouraged, disenfranchised and misled. Don't let the misalignment of your focus be the reason for blaming God or insulting Jesus. He will not lead you astray, Church.

#### **DAY 7: READ PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21, PSALM 110 & PSALM 8**

Our citizenship is with God in Christ Jesus. No matter what the world and all its broken people try to convince you of, if you claim the blood of Jesus, you are His and He loves you. While we wait for Jesus the risen Savior to return and complete the transformation of our lowly bodies to be like His, do not lose hope or be afraid. All creation submits to the authority of Christ. No matter what you're facing, stop and, speaking out loud, proclaim the authority of Jesus over whatever it is. God is not dead.