

# PHILIPPIANS: A GUIDE TO TRUE JOY

Chapter 3:10-21 Transformed in Christ

Speaker: Auke Rienstra



# HOW CAN WE BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST?

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,



# HOW CAN WE BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST?

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.



# HOW CAN WE BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST?

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. – Phil. 3:10-21



# VS. 10-11: BY ALL MEANS, PAUL WANTS 'TO KNOW CHRIST AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION'

- Like Matt. 13:44-46
- Everything else is rubbish
- Knowing Jesus, not only knowing about Him
- Only dead things can experience resurrection
- Russian novelist Alexander Zolzhenitsyn: “bless you prison for I nourished my soul there”
- Eph. 2:1-3, Matt. 16:25, Coll. 3:5-6



# VS. 11-13A: BECOMING LIKE MORE LIKE CHRIST IS A PROCESS

- Even Paul isn't there yet either
- Rom. 7:15-20
- In Christ we have attained righteousness, relationship with God, eternal life
- Time to relax and sit back?
- No, it time 'to press on' to life up to this, to make it your 'own'



# VS. 12-16: THERE IS FAR MORE JOY IN YOUR FUTURE THAN IN YOUR PAST

- If spiritually mature you will think this way
- If not yet, God will reveal it to you while you grow in your maturity
- Paul is leaving his past, his old identity behind...
- But how can he do this? How can he live with himself?
- Because he has been forgiven!



# VS. 12-16: THERE IS FAR MORE JOY IN YOUR FUTURE THAN IN YOUR PAST

- “If you don’t live from Jesus’ forgiveness than you’re saying that your own verdict on yourself is more important than God’s verdict on you”
- Our past (experiences) can be great obstacles for our present and future joy





# VS. 12-16: THERE IS FAR MORE JOY IN YOUR FUTURE THAN IN YOUR PAST

1. If you can't fix it, flush it
2. You know you've healed from your past hurts if you can talk about it in a healthy way
3. To move 'forward' you sometimes need to leave people and/or things behind
4. Don't look back (Lot's wife)
5. The best is yet to come
6. Only God can give you joy that is perfect and everlasting



# VS. 17: WE ALL NEED EXAMPLES IN OUR LIVES

- Paul: 'imitate me' ?
- Isn't that a bit arrogant?
- 'may I never boast except in the cross' ?
- But the truth is that we all need examples.
- A good reason to be part of a church!
- Who is your example? Who discipled you? Who introduced you to Christ?



# VS. 18-19: WE SHOULD BE SAD FOR THE REBELLIOUS AND THE LOST

- Many walk as enemies of the cross:
  - All persecutors?
  - Following god of their bellies, following worldly things
  - They glory in their shame, calling evil good and good evil
- Paul cries for them because it will be to their destruction: 'heaven and hell are both for real'.



# VS. 20-21: OUR GLORIOUS FUTURE!

- Our citizenship is in heaven
- Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God
- Jesus will return in full glory to redeem but also to judge (the Jesus as described in Revelation for example)
- He will transform our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body!



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