

## Life Group Notes 10/8/2023

Hon. Charlie Temple Philippians Ch 3 Rejoicing in the Resurrection Wk. 5

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[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at [tbeachhead@comcast.net](mailto:tbeachhead@comcast.net). Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

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Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Charlie Temple has raised this week, 10/8. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On being wary of "dogs."](#)
2. [On "faith in Christ" vs. "faith of Christ."](#)

\*\*\***Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. \*\*\*

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Charlie begins by saying, "The message needs to be clear: Jesus walked out of that grave."

1. Review why this is important.
2. Compared to any other moment in history, where does the resurrection stand in terms of importance?
3. Why?
4. Is there any other moment more important?
5. He continues: "And He walked out of it for each one of you." Does that help explain the significance?
6. He speaks of the "borrowed tomb." Why does that matter? What is in that tomb today?

Charlie reviews what Paul wrote in chapter 1: [12](#) I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, [13](#) so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. [14](#) And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

1. Explain. What has happened to Paul?
2. How are the conditions in prison?
3. If it's the "whole imperial guard" where is this prison?
4. What is the benefit of prison for Paul?

5. What is the benefit of Paul's imprisonment for other Christians in Rome?
6. Have you ever been "chained" where good came from it, for you and for others? Do you have a testimony?
7. What was Paul like before he became Paul the apostle?
8. What was his background?
9. Charlie says, "He comes from the depths of religion to the heights of worship." Explain.
10. "From the chaos of the world where he is blind..." Who was actually causing the chaos? How blind was he before he became blind on the way to Damascus?
11. "...into the peace of Christ, where his sight is restored." How has his sight improved?
12. "...from the bondage of hate to the freedom of love." Explain. How was hate involved in Paul's stated intention in Damascus?
13. Charlie says, "Paul is on a journey of faith, and you will all be on a journey of faith. If you already believe," he asks, "what is your attitude this week?" Answer him.
14. Remembering last week's message, are you working out your salvation as God works in you? Do you have a testimony from this week?

***Philippians 3: Righteousness Through Faith in Christ***

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.

1. Explain verse 1 in terms of the circumstances Paul is in when he writes it. What "same things" is Paul writing?
2. Compare this to what Paul wrote in chapter 1, above. How good is the example Paul sets?
3. Look ahead to chapter 4: 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. How important is this theme? How does rejoicing set us apart from others, especially in these days.
4. How much of what Paul the teacher writes is review? When did the Philippians learn these things from Paul?
5. See [footnote 1](#) below? Who are the dogs, the evil doers and those who "mutilate the flesh?" Where have we seen them before? How often?
6. Why does Paul begin with rejoicing before he goes to those who trouble our peace? Is it easier to face trials in a good mood? Or in a bad mood?

3 For we are the 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.

1. What are Paul's qualifications in the flesh?
2. What benefits does having the right blood, going to the right church, being in the right denomination and coming from the right school give you? How does Paul consider it all?
3. How have priorities changed?
4. What is the goal? What comes with knowing Him well? What comes with actually knowing the power of His resurrection?
5. What comes with sharing His sufferings? What does it look like to "become like Him in His death?"
6. Explain verse 11. Why does Paul say, "...by any means possible?"
7. Paul seems to believe this goal is attainable. Who also believed on Paul's behalf?
8. Did Paul attain that goal? How does Paul's success encourage you?
9. What do you believe? Who also believes on your behalf, as He believed on Paul's? (See [footnote 2](#) below.)

Charlie concludes, "God's Son came to this earth in human form. He walked among us. He had a ministry. He preached. He healed. And the world rejected Him. They crucified Him. But oh how the times changed when He walked out of that borrowed tomb. As John the Baptist cried, "The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world." He died for you. And guess what, He lives for you. We experience this every time we worship; He pours down His life on you as your praise mounts up." Then He adds, "I can believe and partake of His eternal life or not believe and miss out." He asks, "What is so difficult about that choice?"

1. Answer him.
2. Do you see anything new in this? Can you share?
3. Why does getting to know Christ gain in importance?
4. What chains need to fall off?

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### **The Follow-up Application**

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Charlie says, "When you go home today, just rejoice. Look at something that bothers you, frayed carpet, or dog-torn couch, say, 'I'm rejoicing in this.'"
3. Write down what "walking like Christ" looks like.
4. Write down something worth rejoicing over.

### **Take the time to pray.**

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#### **Scribe's Notes:**

1. **On being wary of "dogs"**— "Dog" in Greek is κύων (*kyon*). It is not a polite, friendly term. Strong's tells us that a "dog is universally despised in the east." We are told that it refers to literally, a dog, scavenging canine; (figuratively)

a spiritual predator who feeds off others. [A loose dog was disdained in ancient times – viewed as a "*mooch pooch*" that ran about as a *scavenger*.] Some commentaries mention that the term is so pejorative, it refers to homosexuals as well, people of impudent and impure minds and motives. As Paul is very clear in the context, my suggestion is that he is making reference to profiteering from the gospel, as he warned the Corinthians, and especially those who gain credit in the eyes of Jews by forcing circumcision on the gentiles, hence those who "mutilate the flesh." If you remember, Paul had already fought this fight at the First Council in Jerusalem (Acts 15), where the decision was made that the Gentiles do not need to be circumcised. These same Pharisees turn up often, and Paul's aggravated response when they showed up in Galatian is that they should "...cut the rest of it off as well." (Galatians 5:15)

2. **On "faith in Christ" vs. "faith of Christ."** One of the most important questions that you must find an answer for is this: What does it mean to have "faith in God." Look again at verse [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. The real question is, by whose faith are you actually saved? Did you believe first in God? Or did He first believe in you? The Greek for "***through faith in Christ***" in this verse looks like this: *διὰ πίστεως Χριστοῦ* (*dia pisteos Christou* – through Christ's faith). The case of the noun "faith," genitive, indicates faith's source and its quality. The implication is very important, and recurrent throughout the New Testament: We are saved. Christ had the idea first, and believed it was so Good, He undertook our salvation because He first believed in us. We are saved by His faith in us, and no measure of our own faith changes the gift. Look up 2 Timothy 2:11-13 [11](#) This is a trustworthy saying: If we died with Him, we will also live with Him; [12](#) if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He will also deny us; [13](#) if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. There is no valid argument that says, "I'm more saved than you, because I have more faith." Likewise no argument makes any sense that states, "My faith isn't strong enough to save me." Paul says in Romans 10, "If we confess with our mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts God raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved." Our salvation is established in the faith OF Him Whose faith created the heavens and the earth. "We understand that by faith God created the universe by the Word of God." (Hebrews 11:3) That same word says, "I will be with you always." Our own faith become visible as we begin to respond to this free gift, as Peter says in

2 Peter 1:5. We add to our faith virtue. Our faith begins to show and will be borne out in our deeds.

**For further study:**

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Philippians 3:1
Tuesday: Philippians 3:3
Wednesday: Philippians 3:7-11
Thursday: Philippians 3:12-14
Friday: Philippians 3:17
Saturday: 2 Timothy 2:11-13
Sunday: Galatians 5:18-24

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.