

# “Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

## Philippians Bible Study

### Philippians 3:4- 14 Lesson #7

\*\*INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in Philippians before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word.  
Most Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

4-6 Though I also might have **CONFIDENCE in the FLESH**. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; **CONCERNING the LAW, a Pharisee**; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

● **II Corinthians 11:21-22** “To our shame, I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold -- I speak \_\_\_\_\_ — I am bold also. Are they \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_ am \_\_\_\_\_. Are they \_\_\_\_\_? So am I. Are they the seed of \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_ am \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “I also might have CONFIDENCE in the FLESH”** – To have confidence in the flesh means you are relying on worldly, physical things instead of relying and trusting in God. In Second Corinthians 11:21-27, Paul says, “I speak foolishly” and “I speak as a fool” when he names all his so-called qualifications and credentials “in the flesh.” He knows **these things are NOT what can SAVE a person and make them right in God’s sight**, but he is trying to show the Corinthian Believers, in a sort of sarcastic way, that he has just as many qualifications as the false teachers they have been listening to, if not more.

● **II Corinthians 11:23-27** “Are they ministers of Christ? – I \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_ – I am \_\_\_\_\_: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one (a severe whipping). Three times I was \_\_\_\_\_ with rods; once I was \_\_\_\_\_; three times I was \_\_\_\_\_; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils (danger)of waters, in perils of \_\_\_\_\_, in perils of my own countrymen (the Jews), in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness – “

**Definition: “CONCERNING the LAW, a Pharisee”** – Again, Paul is listing his achievements and credentials in comparison to the Judaizers (false teachers) who claimed to be so qualified, and to be such “good Jews.” Paul tells them he was a **Pharisee, which was the HIGHEST qualification of being a “good Jew”** and keeping the law of Moses. But all these things could not save him - he was just a lost, self-righteous sinner before he came to faith in Jesus Christ.

● **Acts 26:4-5** “My \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know. They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ sect of our \_\_\_\_\_ I lived a \_\_\_\_\_.”

7-9 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. But indeed I also count all things loss for the **EXCELLENCE of the KNOWLEDGE of Christ Jesus** my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ. and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is **through faith in Christ, the RIGHTEOUSNESS which is from God by FAITH**.

• **Romans 9:31-33** “But Israel, pursuing the law of \_\_\_\_\_, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did \_\_\_\_\_ seek it by \_\_\_\_\_, but as it were, by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone (could not accept it).”

• **Ephesians 2:8-9** “For by \_\_\_\_\_ you have been \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_, and that not of \_\_\_\_\_, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; not of \_\_\_\_\_ lest anyone should boast.”

**Definition: “The GIFT of RIGHTEOUSNESS” — God MAKES us righteous when we BELIEVE in Jesus Christ and RECEIVE HIM as our Lord and Savior. That RIGHTEOUSNESS is a GIFT, not something we can EARN. As in Romans 9:31-33 and 10:1-4, the Jews, and many other people REFUSE TO ACCEPT salvation as a FREE GIFT from God. They continue to TRY TO EARN salvation and “seek to establish their own righteousness”, and thus miss out on God’s righteousness altogether.**

• **Romans 10:1-4** “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be \_\_\_\_\_. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to \_\_\_\_\_. For they being \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s \_\_\_\_\_, and seeking to establish their own \_\_\_\_\_, have not submitted to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. For Christ is the end of the law for \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone who \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “I count all things LOSS for the EXCELLENCE of the KNOWLEDGE of Christ Jesus”**  
– All of Paul’s so-called qualifications and achievements meant NOTHING to him in comparison to his RELATIONSHIP with Jesus. The Greek word for “knowledge” here does not mean just an intellectual knowledge, but a PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE and RELATIONSHIP with Christ. When Paul says he “counts them as rubbish”, the word for rubbish is actually dung or MANURE. You must keep your focus on Jesus, and **NOT on the things of your past**. No matter HOW desirable those things once were, you must consider them as TRASH - get rid of them! Don’t think of yourself as **being deprived** of some wonderful thing for the sake of Jesus, but think of yourself as being SET FREE from BONDAGE to a lot of harmful things. Jesus says, “Let him DENY himself” and “Whoever loses his life for My sake, the same will save it.” He is talking about giving up all the old desires of your flesh, “denying” yourself those things, and walking away from them. Some of those old things may still have a hold on you, but God’s word says you have to “put to death” those things from your “lower” life that stand in the way of your walk with Christ. That means you STOMP IT OUT, like Smokey the Bear on a lighted match! Then, you take up your cross, which means the plan and purpose God has for your life, and you follow Jesus in the HIGHER life.

• **Colossians 3:1-5** “If you then are \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, seek those things which are \_\_\_\_\_, where \_\_\_\_\_ sits on the right hand of God. \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ on things \_\_\_\_\_, not on things on the earth. For you are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory. \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

• **Hebrews 2:1-2** “.....Let us \_\_\_\_\_ every \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ which so easily ensnares us, and let us \_\_\_\_\_ with endurance the \_\_\_\_\_ that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith....”

10-12 That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **if by any means I may ATTAIN to the RESURRECTION of the DEAD**. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

• **Ephesians 1:14** “Which is the guarantee of our \_\_\_\_\_ until the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ possession, unto the praise of His glory.”

• **I Corinthians 15:20-22 & 26** “But now Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (in death). For since by \_\_\_\_\_ came \_\_\_\_\_, by Man came also the \_\_\_\_\_ of the dead. For as in \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_, even so in Christ all shall be made \_\_\_\_\_.” (Verse 26) “The last \_\_\_\_\_ that will be destroyed is \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **Philippians 3:20-21** “For our citizenship is in \_\_\_\_\_, from which we also \_\_\_\_\_ wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will \_\_\_\_\_ our lowly \_\_\_\_\_ that it may be conformed to (made the same as) His glorious \_\_\_\_\_, according to the working by which He is able to subdue \_\_\_\_\_ things to Himself.”

**Definition: “FIRSTFRUITS of the SPIRIT”** — The Holy Spirit is given to us as a **DOWN PAYMENT or GUARANTEE of the resurrection which is to come**. In the Old Testament, the “FIRSTFRUITS” was the FIRST PART of the HARVEST, which was given to God as an offering, in FAITH that the REST OF THE HARVEST would be plentiful and good.

**Definition: “REDEMPTION of our BODY”** — When we receive our RESURRECTION BODY. Our SPIRIT within us is BORN AGAIN and made NEW, but we feel “naked” without the corresponding NEW SPIRITUAL BODY. (See **Genesis 3:9-11** and **I Cor. 15:35-57**)

• **II Corinthians 5:1-4** “For we know that if our \_\_\_\_\_ house, this tent (our PHYSICAL BODY), is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we \_\_\_\_\_, earnestly desiring to be \_\_\_\_\_ with our \_\_\_\_\_ which is from \_\_\_\_\_, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent \_\_\_\_\_, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “If by any means I may ATTAIN to the RESURRECTION of the DEAD”** – Paul was longing for a **release from his earthly body and to receive his resurrection body**, which would be perfect and without pain and suffering. When he says, “**If by any means I may ATTAIN to the RESURRECTION**” he is NOT doubting his salvation, but **just wants to get there**, whether it is by DEATH or when Jesus returns and we go up to Him in the Rapture.

• **I Thessalonians 4:17** “Then \_\_\_\_\_ who are alive and remain shall be \_\_\_\_\_ up together with them in the \_\_\_\_\_ to meet the \_\_\_\_\_ in the air. And thus we shall \_\_\_\_\_ be with the Lord.”

13-14 Brothers, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind**, and reaching forward to those things which are AHEAD, **I press toward the GOAL for the PRIZE of the upward call (HIGH CALLING) of God** in Christ Jesus.

• **I Corinthians 6:9-11** “Do you not know that the \_\_\_\_\_ will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers (users of abusive language), nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. But you were \_\_\_\_\_, but you were sanctified (made holy), but you were \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ and by the Spirit of our God.”

**Definition: “FORGETTING those things which are BEHIND”** – Paul says “Forgetting those things

which are behind, we must press on towards the goal.” Why is it that so many Christians drag their past around with them, and have such a hard time forgiving themselves? Maybe it is because in their past experiences, no one has ever offered **true unconditional love and forgiveness**, so it is a foreign idea. However, **you MUST receive and accept by faith** your complete forgiveness and cleansing, just because of what Jesus did for you on the cross, not because of anything you did to deserve it. It is vitally important that you not only believe that God has forgiven you, but that you also **FORGIVE YOURSELF!** There are no sins that are worse than others - sin is sin, in God’s eyes. Some people will say that this or that sin is worse, because the Bible calls it an “abomination” to God, but you will find Scriptures which state that MANY things are an abomination to God. Jesus really lambasted the Pharisees for their hypocrisy, self-righteousness, pride, and for leading others astray. In I Corinthians 6:11, Paul speaks to Christians, showing us that the Church of Jesus Christ is made up of SINNERS, because he says, “such were some of you.” **It is only by the BLOOD of Jesus Christ that we are forgiven and CLEANSED** of those sins. A person who has NOT trusted Jesus Christ for salvation and forgiveness of their sins has NO PART in the kingdom of God. Jesus said, “Unless a man is BORN AGAIN, he cannot [even] SEE the Kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

• **Proverbs 6:16-19** “These six things the Lord \_\_\_\_\_, yes, seven are an \_\_\_\_\_ to Him: a proud (haughty) look, a \_\_\_\_\_ tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a \_\_\_\_\_ that devises \_\_\_\_\_ plans, feet that are swift in running to \_\_\_\_\_, a false witness who speaks \_\_\_\_\_, and one who sows \_\_\_\_\_ among brethren.”

• **I John 1:9** “If we \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_, He is faithful and just to \_\_\_\_\_ us our \_\_\_\_\_, and to cleanse us from all \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **Psalm 103:10-14** “He has \_\_\_\_\_ dealt with us according to our \_\_\_\_\_, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so \_\_\_\_\_ is His \_\_\_\_\_ toward those who fear Him (reverence Him); as far as the east is from the west, so far has He \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ from us.”

• **Isaiah 43:25** “I, even I, am the One who \_\_\_\_\_ your transgressions for My own sake; and I will \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “For the PRIZE of the HIGH CALLING of God in Christ Jesus” – What is the “High Calling” or the “Victorious Christian Life”?** It is fulfilling God’s purpose for your life, which He planned even before you were born, but many Christians **never reach that GOAL of walking in and fulfilling the plan God has for them.** It is the same as the Israelites in Moses’ time - God lead them out of bondage in Egypt, but what **should have been a two-week journey** turned into a lifetime of wandering in the wilderness, and a whole generation never entered the Promised Land! **God’s Promised Land for you is the “Victorious Christian Life,”** and He wants you to enter it and enjoy it. There will be battles along the way, just as there were nations for the Israelites to drive out of Canaan, but God has promised you the victory. The victorious life in Christ is what is meant in Philippians 3:8, “That I may gain Christ.” Obviously, Paul already had Jesus Christ in his life, so what is he referring to? He means **having Christ become the dominating power in your life!** When he talks about not having already attained or arrived at, or not already being perfect, he is talking about becoming LIKE Jesus Christ in everything you do. This is our goal - to become Christ-like in all that we do and say. Have any of us totally and completely reached or attained that goal yet? No, of course not, but it is God’s desire and plan for our lives (Romans 8:29).

• **II Timothy 1:9** “Who has \_\_\_\_\_ us and called us with a holy \_\_\_\_\_, not according to our works, but \_\_\_\_\_ to His own \_\_\_\_\_ and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.”

• **Ephesians 2:10** “For we are His \_\_\_\_\_, created in Christ Jesus for good

works, which God has before \_\_\_\_\_ that we should \_\_\_\_\_ in them.”