

**Recap of 8/7/16 (Phil 3:12-21):**

1. A key theme throughout Philippians is joy. During our study of this book, we will see ten specific reasons Paul gives for joy. All ten have their basis in Christ Jesus. Joy should permeate the Christian life not because of the circumstances in which we find ourselves, but because of who we are in Christ; we are children of The One True King!
2. So far we've encountered 7 of the 10 reasons for joy: 1st joy-fellow believers (Phil 1:4-5); 2nd joy-Christ is proclaimed (Phil 1:12-18); 3rd joy-rewarded faith (Phil 1:25-26); 4th joy-unity (Phil 2:1-2); 5th joy-fulfilling our purpose in Christ (Phil 2:14-18); 6th joy-Reunions (Phil 2:25-29); 7th joy-the person of God (Phil 3:1).
3. Another main theme in Philippians is walking (living) in a manner worthy of the Gospel, worthy of what God has done for us. We live rightly not to be saved, but because we are saved. Because it is so easy to get side tracked by looking for works in ourselves and others, Paul, in the first part of chapter 3, brings us back to what is most important, the best thing, and drives it home. As you endeavor to live in obedience to God's word, you can't forget the best thing - your relationship with Christ!
4. In the second part of chapter 3 Paul tells us that gaining spiritual maturity is a process. He uses athletic imagery to encourage us to continue looking at the finish (eternity with Christ) as we press on through each moment. Don't dwell on the successes or failures in the past, but continually reach forward, striving to do better each day. We should follow the example of Christ and Paul (because he follows Christ) not the example of the world (popular culture). Remember that although we may live in the world, our citizenship is in heaven.