

Philippians 3:1-4:1

- 1 Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord!
To write this again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.
- 2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

flesh/spirit — old creation values vs new creation life

- 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 also might have **confidence in the flesh**.
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 the Hebrews;
 - regarding the law, a Pharisee;
 - regarding zeal, persecuting the church;
 - regarding righteousness under the law, blameless.

gain/loss — righteousness from law/faith — death/resurrection

- 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 far greater value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,
for whom I have **suffered the loss of all things**—I even regard them as **dung!**
that I may **gain Christ**
and be found **in him**,
not because I have my own righteousness derived from the law,
but that which comes through Christ's faithfulness,
the righteousness from God that depends on faith;
- 10 My aim is to **know him**
and the power of **his resurrection**,
and to share in **his sufferings**,
becoming **like him in his death**,
and so, by what ever means, **to attain to the resurrection from the dead**.
- 11

Present/future

- 12 Not that I **have already attained**, or am **already perfected**;
but I **press on**, to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.
- 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not count myself to have attained this, but I am single-minded,
forgetting those things which are behind
and **reaching forward to those things which are ahead**,
- 14 I **press on toward** the goal for the prize of **the upward call of God** in Christ Jesus.

the mature mind

- 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, **have this mind**;
and if in anything you think otherwise, God will **reveal** that to you also.
- 16 Only let us walk by the standard that we have already attained.

walk of example/walk of wickedness — earthly mind/heavenly mind

- 17 Be imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and watch carefully those who are walking this way,
just as you have us as an example.
- 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even with tears,
that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:
 - 19 whose end is destruction,
 - whose god is their belly,
 - and whose glory is in their shame
—who **set their mind on earthly things**.
- 20 But **our citizenship is in heaven**,
from where we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ,
who will **transform our lowly body**
to become like his glorious body,
- 21 according to the power by which he is able even to subject all things to himself.

- 4:1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brothers and sisters, my joy and crown,
stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.