



**PHILIPPIANS:  
ENJOYING LIFE**  
An interactive Bible study for  
individuals, families,  
and LIFE Groups

~ Week Ten ~  
"Joy Thieves"  
Philippians 3:1-11

**SERMON NOTES**

*Record your insights and observations from this week's sermon:*

Thanks for using UPC's weekly Bible study guide. We pray that this tool will help you RECALL what you heard in the Sunday sermon, REFLECT on the Scriptures more fully, and RESPOND with love to God, church, and community. If you miss a sermon, or would like to review it, visit our website: [www.upc-orlando.com](http://www.upc-orlando.com).

**WARM UP**

What thoughts or situations tend to steal your joy?

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**RECALL THE SUNDAY SERMON**

**Read Philippians 3:1-11**

a) Did you have an "Aha!" moment while listening to this week's sermon? If so, describe it here:

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b) About whom is Paul talking when he writes in 3:2 about "those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh"?

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c) What teachings were the Jewish legalists spreading among the Philippians? And why is Paul so upset about those teachings? (vss. 2-3)

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d) What did Paul discover about his "good works" after he became a Christian? (vss. 4-8)

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e) How can a person be righteous before a perfectly holy God? (vs. 9)

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### REFLECT A BIT FURTHER

a) What teachings or ideas do you think Christians today need to stay away from in order to guard their joy in Christ?

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b) What “recipes for righteousness” have you personally encountered or even tried to live by that run counter to the free grace of Jesus Christ?

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c) There is a scene at the end of the movie *Saving Private Ryan* in which Ryan, as an old man, looks back on his life and says, “I hope it was enough. I hope I’ve earned what they did for me. Tell me I’ve led a good life. Tell me I’m a good man.” How do those words capture the longing of the human heart? What does Christianity have to say to that longing?

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### RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

a) Now that you’ve read Paul’s reflections upon his old value system, personalize Philippians 3:8-9 by filling in the blanks with words or phrases that describe your own change of perspective:

“I consider \_\_\_\_\_ a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost \_\_\_\_\_. I consider \_\_\_\_\_ rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

b) Paul’s chief ambition was to know Christ (vs. 10). Is that your main hope and aspiration today? What desires are competing with this one for first place in your life?

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### PRAY FOR UPC

Please pray this week for:

- **Vacation Bible School** June 11-16 – Pray that many children and adults will come into the Kingdom through this ministry.
- **Rob and Lisa Stewart**, our missionaries to Japan – They are almost finished with language school and will be moving in July to Chiba, where Rob will serve as principal of Covenant Community School International. CCSI has been a school for missionary kids, but this year they are opening their doors to Japanese Christians. Pray for a smooth transition of Japanese students and their families into what will be for them a new model of education. PRAY that the Stewarts will finish language school strong and be able to use their new skills in Chiba.
- Our **high school Mission Team**, who have just returned from London – that God will enable them to live with greater passion for Christ because of their time in London.