

Joy in the Gospel

Gospel Goals | Philippians 3-4



MEMORY VERSE: "Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." Philippians 2:2

What are your career goals? Financial goals? Health goals? Gospel goals? The focus of the Gospel-goal is to rejoice in the Lord (Philippians 3:1)

- **Goal 1: Knowing Jesus (Galatians 3:7-10)**
 - Paul's credentials paled in comparison to his desire to know Jesus, Galatians 3:10
 - The word **know** is the Greek word **ginosko** which means intimate, experiential knowledge. In the Septuagint, *Adam **knew** Eve his wife* (Genesis 4:1) is ginosko.
- **Goal 2: Pressing Forward (Philippians 3:12-14)**
 - A gospel-centered life requires pursuit, not passivity, Philippians 3:14
 - The word **press** is the Greek word **dioko** which means to pursue intensely; chase. It is used to describe Paul's persecution of the Church in verse 6 and now his pursuit of Jesus.
- **Goal 3: Christian Unity (Philippians 4:2-3)**
 - Unity does not require compromise of truth, but it does require humility and forgiveness. Philippians 4:2-3
 - The phrase **be of the same mind** comes from the Greek word **phroneo** which means to think harmoniously; set one's mind together. Romans 8:5 shows that it is either the flesh or the Spirit, your choice.
- **Goal 4: Joy and Peace (Philippians 4:4-9)**
 - Joy and Peace are only found **IN** Jesus, not about Jesus, Philippians 4:4,6-7
 - The phrase **be careful for nothing** comes from the Greek word **merimnao** which means anxious distraction; divided concern. Worries choke the impact of the Word (Matthew 13:22).
- **Goal 5: Contentment (Philippians 4:11-13)**
 - Contentment is learned, not automatic, Philippians 4:11-12
 - The Greek word for **content** is **autarkes** which means inward sufficiency. Stoics use this word to show self-sufficiency; Paul uses it to show complete sufficiency in Jesus.

- Conclusion: **Know** Jesus deeply; **Press forward** spiritually; **Live** as citizens of heaven; **Pursue** unity; **walk** in joy/peace; **learn** contentment

Reflect + Respond:

1. Read Philippians 3:8-10; Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 17:3. What does it mean to “know Christ”? How does the meaning of ginosko apply to the statement: salvation is relational, not merely intellectual? What competes with Christ for first place in your life? What are some ways you settle for intellectual pursuit of Jesus rather than intimate relationship?
2. Read Philippians 3:12-14; Hebrews 12:1-2; Proverbs 4:25-27. Why must Christians continue pressing forward spiritually? What are some things that distract you from pressing and cause you to putter? What are some disciplines that you can place in your life to facilitate the pursuit of Jesus?
3. Read Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Peter 2:11; Colossians 3:1-2. What does it mean to live as citizens of heaven? Why is it tempting to live as citizens of earth until you reach heaven? The Greek emphasizes that you are already citizens of heaven so how should that affect your conduct now? What does it look like to live as a citizen of heaven and how is that different from how you live now?
4. Read Philippians 4:2-3; Ephesians 4:1-3; Psalm 133:1. Why is unity essential in the church? What are some factors that cause division in the church? How does Matthew 18 help resolve conflict in the church? What role does humility play in the unity of the church?
5. Read Philippians 4:6-8; Matthew 6:25-34; Isaiah 26:3; Romans 12:2; Psalm 101:3. What role does the mind play in your pursuit of Jesus? How does anxiety affect your mind? A recent poll stated that we live in the most therapeutic time yet anxiety is at an all-time high. Why? How does media impact thinking and trust? What are some steps you can take to think more like Jesus and rest in Him?
6. Read Philippians 4:11-20; 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5. What is true contentment? What is the relationship between gratitude, contentment, and covetousness? Which realm do you live in most? How did the church help meet the needs of Paul and what was his response?
7. Read Philippians 4:21-23. What stands out to you with Paul’s conclusion? How do the words greet, grace, spirit work together? How should this statement affect how you treat other believers today?