

Philippians – Christ Brings Contentment in Every Circumstance
(Part 10) Not Perfect is Not an Excuse

When Paul wrote from the Roman jail to the church at Philippi he had been serving Jesus for about 25 years

Last week Paul reminded us that we become righteous through faith in Christ (3:9)

Apparently, the believers at Philippi are becoming complacent as they are affected by the Judaizers who followed Paul and confused them

He warned the church in the beginning of this chapter about the legalistic Judaizers

Paul now uses his own life to contradict these false teachers

(Philippians 3:12- 21)

(v. 12-14) Paul is still not satisfied that he has served God to his full potential, but refuses to quit trying

(v.12a) Paul admits he is not perfect (3:10)

He was not satisfied with his spiritual life

After 25 years of sacrificial service, he had not yet completely appropriated God's promises

(v.12b) He is motivated to "constantly press on" in order to experience the perfection of Christ

He is seeking out a progressive victory over the sin in his life (2:12-13)

Christ laid hold of him for a definite purpose – that he might be Christ-like (Rom. 8:29-30).

He wants to broaden, expand and deepen his relationship with Christ.

(v.13-14) We should never stop growing in grace

We cannot move forward by living in the past

Our single passion in life, to the exclusion of all other interests, should be Christlikeness.

How does that happen? (Hebrews 12:2a)

We must be always moving towards the goal of total and complete fellowship with Christ

(v.15-21) The dangers of extremes in religion – legalism vs. lawlessness

(v.15-17) Paul's example vs the rules of the legalists

(v.15-16) Mature followers of Christ understand the truth of progressive sanctification

God brings clarification if needed

(v.17) "Listen to my words and follow my example."

Follow those who follow the Lord (John 14:21)

(v.18-19) Many are off the narrow path

(v.18) Actions demonstrate the condition of the soul

(v.19) Professing Christians who practice cheap grace (Romans 6:12-14)

(v.20-21) True followers of Christ

Believers have dual citizenship

True believers long for glorification and the return of Christ