



Philippians 3:1-14, 20-21 - The Mark of Mission

Philippians 3:1-4

- Vs 1a – “Finally” = “So then”
- Vs 1b – “rejoice in the Lord” – a theme in the letter. Connects to 2:17-18.
- Paul is adamant - Christians don’t need to become Jews.
- The temple at Jerusalem replaced by the temple of Christ (John 2:18-22)
- The high-priesthood of Aaron replaced by the high-priesthood of Jesus, after Melchizedek (Hebrews 5-7).
- Old Testament Sacrifices replaced by the once-for-all perfect sacrifice of Jesus (Hebrews 9:11-28).
- Vs 3 – It is we who are the true circumcision, i.e. Jews and Gentiles who worship by the Holy Spirit, and who glory and trust in Jesus alone and have no confidence in the flesh (Gk. *sarx* or sinful nature).

Philippians 3:5-11

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| • Paul says he was: | • A true Jew |
| • Religious | • Educated by the best |
| • A national of Israel | • Zealous |
| • Of the right tribe | • Faultless |

Everything that is coming to us from God comes through Christ Jesus. Christ Jesus has won our pardon; He has reconciled us to God; He has cancelled our sin; He has secured the gifts of the Spirit for us; He has granted eternal life to us and promised us the life of the consummation; He has made us children of the new covenant; His righteousness has been accounted as ours; He has risen from the dead; and all of God’s sovereignty is mediated through Him and directed to our good and to God’s glory....All the blessings God has for us are tied up with the work of Christ.

D. A. Carson, *A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities for Paul and His Prayers*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992, page 189.

- Vs 10 – “that I may know Him” – Gk. *ginōskō* lit. personal knowledge (cf Hebrew *yāda’* in Genesis 4:1).

How to bear the Mark of Gospel Mission?

- **1. Give up everything for Christ!**
“...without surrender, nothing we do leads us to grow deep in God...A surrendered life is the key to intimacy with God.”
Edmund Chan, *Growing Deep in God* (Singapore: Covenant Evangelical Free Church, 2002), page 209-210.
- **2. Press on towards Christ with all that you are.**
“Remember Lot’s wife.” (Luke 17:32 cf 9:62)