

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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By Dan Maines

**Philippians 3**

**Philippians 3:1**

**Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble for me, and it is a safeguard for you.**

† Paul repeats himself for their safety, emphasizing joy in the Lord as protection against error.

† Repetition in teaching strengthens believers against false doctrines.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 2) commended the church for holding fast through repeated instruction.

### **Philippians 3:2-3**

**Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and take pride in Christ Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh.**

† Paul warns against Judaizers who insisted on physical circumcision.

† True circumcision is spiritual, worship in the Spirit and boasting in Christ.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QpHab) condemned false teachers as dogs, aligning with Paul's rebuke of corrupters of the covenant.

### **Philippians 3:4-6**

**Although I myself could boast as having confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he is confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.**

† Paul lists his Jewish credentials to show that fleshly boasting is worthless.

† By human standards he excelled, yet it did not bring righteousness.

† Josephus (Life 12) boasted of his Pharisaic training, showing the mindset Paul abandoned for Christ.

### **Philippians 3:7-8**

**But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ.**

† Paul turns worldly gain into spiritual loss compared to knowing Christ.

† Rubbish (refuse, dung) highlights the worthlessness of

status apart from Christ.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Romans 4) expressed a similar desire, counting earthly things as nothing to gain Christ.

### **Philippians 3:9**

And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.

† True righteousness comes by faith, not the Law.

† Justification is God's gift in Christ, not human effort.

† Justin Martyr (Dialogue with Trypho 95) argued that righteousness comes by faith in Christ, not works of the Law.

### **Philippians 3:10-11**

That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; if somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

† Paul longs for experiential knowledge of Christ through suffering and resurrection.

† Sharing in His sufferings conforms believers to His death, guaranteeing resurrection life.

† Tertullian (On the Resurrection of the Flesh 23) emphasized that resurrection is tied to sharing in Christ's death.

### **Philippians 3:12-14**

Not that I have already grasped it all or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

† Paul admits imperfection, pressing forward to maturity in Christ.

† Forgetting the past, he strains for the goal, the prize in Christ.

† Clement of Alexandria (Stromata 7.12) taught that progress in virtue requires forgetting past failures and striving toward perfection in Christ.

### **Philippians 3:15-16**

Therefore, all who are mature, let's have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that to you as well; however, let's keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

† Maturity is shown in pressing forward and holding to the truth already attained.

† Unity comes through God's revelation, not human pride.

### **Philippians 3:17-19**

Brothers and sisters, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even as I weep, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who have their minds on earthly things.

† Paul urges imitation of godly examples, warning against those who are enemies of the cross.

† Their focus on earthly things leads to destruction.

† Josephus (Wars 5.10.5) described the indulgence and corruption of leaders in Jerusalem, reflecting Paul's lament over those ruled by appetite.

### **Philippians 3:20-21**

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our lowly condition into conformity with His glorious body, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

† Believers belong to a heavenly citizenship, not an earthly one.

† Christ transforms His people to share in His glory.

† Origen (Against Celsus 5.33) defended the idea of heavenly citizenship as true freedom under Christ's lordship.

### **How it applies to us today**

† Philippians 3 reminds us that true righteousness is by faith, not works of the Law.

† Worldly credentials are worthless compared to knowing Christ.

† Our citizenship is heavenly, fulfilled in Christ's kingdom, and we press forward in maturity, awaiting His transformation.

† **This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at**

**Fulfilled Prophecies †**

### **Source Index**

† **Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 2 - repetition in teaching**

† **Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QpHab - condemnation of false teachers**

† **Josephus, Life 12 - Pharisaic credentials**

† **Ignatius, Letter to the Romans 4 - loss of earthly things to gain Christ**

† **Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 95 - righteousness by faith**

† **Tertullian, On the Resurrection of the Flesh 23 - resurrection tied to Christ's death**

† **Clement of Alexandria, Stromata 7.12 - progress toward perfection**

† **Josephus, Wars 5.10.5 - indulgence and corruption in Jerusalem**

† **Origen, Against Celsus 5.33 - heavenly citizenship in Christ**

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