


PHILIPPIANS

Finding Joy in Every Season



FOR DISCUSSION

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- An illustration of an open wooden treasure chest filled with gold coins, jewelry, and other valuables.
1. What is your greatest treasure? What do you value? What means the most to you in life?
 2. Is there anything you find confusing about the Christian life? About the Bible? If so, what is it?

DIG DEEPER

Read Philippians 3:1 in the International Children's Bible Translation below.

My brothers, be full of joy in the Lord. It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it will help you to be more ready

1. How is it possible to have joy in the Lord in good times *and* in hard times? What do we have because of Christ that we can be thankful for and joyous about?

Read & Reflect on Philippians 3:2

Be careful of those who do evil. They are like dogs. They demand to cut the body.

Paul wants to warn the Philippians about some false teachers that teach that they need to do more than repent and believe to be saved. These false teachers taught that Christians had to follow Jewish law and be circumcised to be saved! This was wrong and Paul did not want the Philippians to fall for these lies. He goes on to say in verse 3:



³ *But we are the ones who are truly circumcised. We worship God through his Spirit. We are proud to be in Christ Jesus. And we do not trust in ourselves or anything we can do.*

2. True circumcision is a circumcision of the heart (Romans 2:29). It is a removal of a heart of stone and removal of impurity. A circumcised heart is a pure heart set apart from God. Everything bad is cut away and we are fully devoted to Him. Do you want to be fully devoted to the Lord and His purposes?
3. What does it look like to worship by the Spirit of God? How do we worship in Spirit and in truth?

Read & Reflect on Philippians 3:4-6

⁴ *Even if I am able to trust in myself, still I do not. If anyone thinks that he has a reason to trust in himself, he should know that I have greater reason for trusting in myself.* ⁵ *I was*

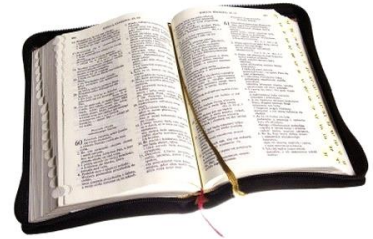


circumcised eight days after my birth. I am from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. I am a Hebrew, and my parents were Hebrews. The law of Moses was very important to me. That is why I became a Pharisee. ⁶ I was so enthusiastic that I tried to hurt the church. No one could find fault with the way I obeyed the law of Moses.

4. Paul had once tried to earn his salvation and a right standing with God through what He did. What were some of the things he boasted in before he knew Christ?

5. Is it possible for anyone to obey the law perfectly? Read Romans 3:10 & 3:20.

Who is the only person to ever obey the law flawlessly?



Read & Reflect on Philippians 3:7-11. Underline words or phrases that stand out to you.

⁷ At one time all these things were important to me. But now I think those things are worth nothing because of Christ. ⁸ Not only those things, but I think that all things are worth nothing compared with the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Christ, I have lost all those things. And now I know that all those things are worthless trash. This allows me to have Christ ⁹ and to belong to him. Now that I belong to Christ, I am right with God and this being right does not come from my following the law. It comes from God through faith. God uses my faith in Christ to make me right with him. ¹⁰ All I want is to know Christ and the power of his rising from death. I want to share in Christ's sufferings and become like him in his death. ¹¹ If I have those things, then I have hope that I myself will be raised from death.

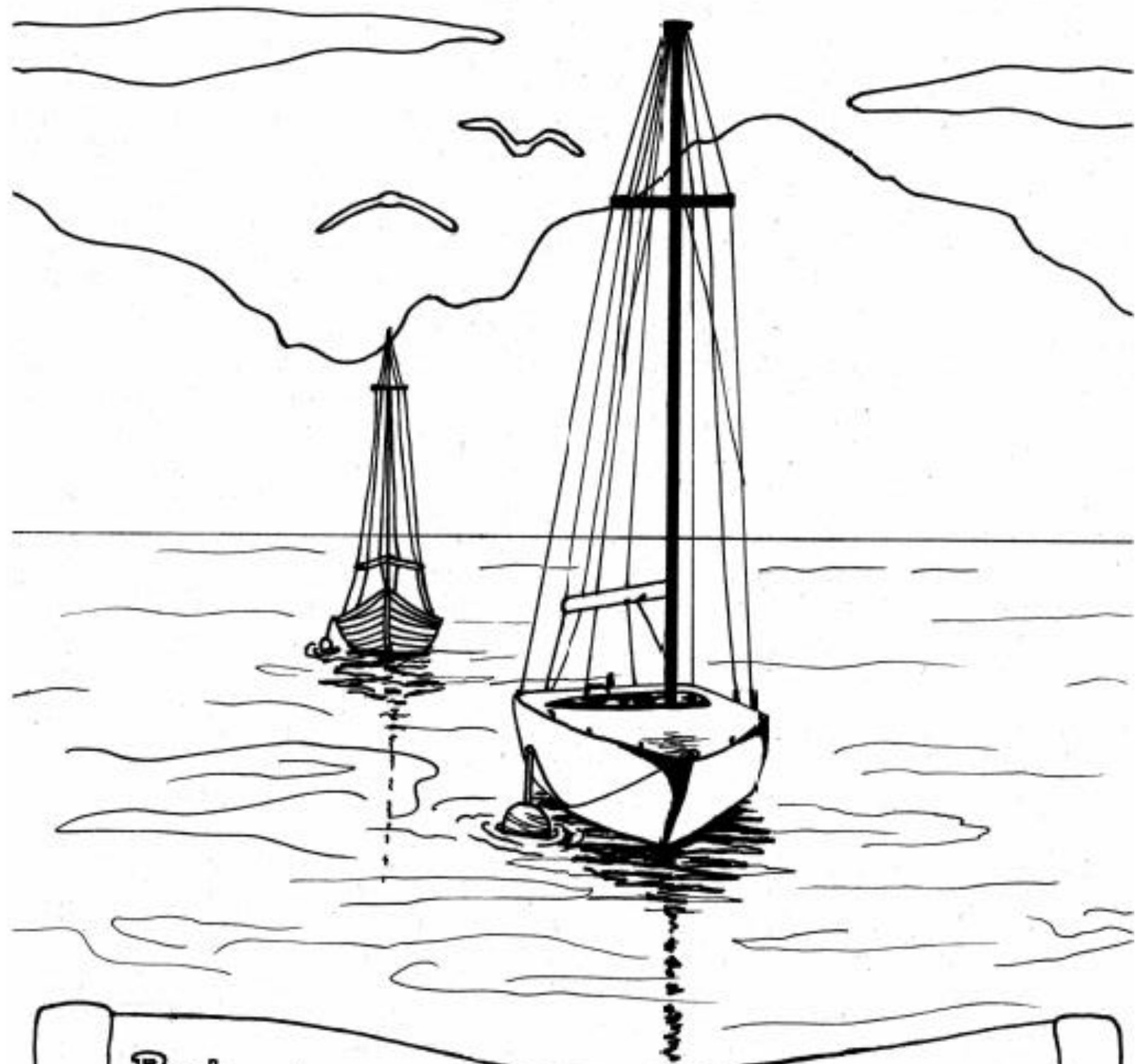
6. Paul says that his life before Christ of trying to earn a right standing with God is 'worthless trash' because nobody can be justified by obeying the law. Read Romans 3:20-24. There is only one way that we can be declared righteous in God's sight. What is it? (See verse 9 above).

7. Paul says in verse 10 "All I want is to _____". Isn't it amazing that we get to know Christ personally! We get to have a real relationship with Him! How can you seek to grow in your relationship with Christ?

Challenge: Consider picking a book of the Bible on your own and setting aside a time to read through this book & talk with God this week. We grow closer to the Lord when we hear from Him from the Word and when we share about all of life with Him in prayer.

PRAYER POINT

- Pray that you would rejoice in the Lord in the good seasons *and* the hard seasons.
- Pray that you would have discernment to know when God's truth is under attack.
- Pray that Jesus would be the greatest treasure in your life.



But whatever gain I had, I counted as
loss for the sake of Christ. PHILIPPIANS 3:7

