

**Philippians 3:1-16**

v1 – rejoice	(verb)	feel and express great happiness; show by your behaviour that you are very pleased about something
v1 – safeguard	(noun)	a measure intended to prevent someone from being harmed
v2 – evil	(noun)	thoughts and actions that are against God
v2 – mutilators	(noun)	people who do serious damage to something by removing a part of it
v2 – flesh	(noun)	physical body
v3 – circumcision	(noun)	the act of removing the foreskin from the male.  In the Old Testament, circumcision was practiced by the Jews as a sign that they are God’s chosen people.
v3 – Spirit of God	(proper noun)	the Holy Spirit. Christians believe in one God who is three Persons – Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit.
v3 – glory (in)	(phrasal verb)	be proud of; take pride and pleasure in
v3 – confidence	(noun)	feeling of trust or confidence in something
v5 – circumcised	(verb)	undergo the ritual of circumcision
v5 – Israel	(proper noun)	the nation who were God’s chosen people in Old Testament times.
v5 – tribe	(noun)	a group of people linked by family ties
v5 – Hebrew	(proper noun)	someone from the nation of Israel
v5 – Pharisee	(proper noun)	a group of Jews who strictly obeyed God’s laws in the Old Testament as well as their own additional rules
v6 – zeal	(noun)	great energy and enthusiasm for God
v6 – persecuting	(verb)	treating people cruelly and unfairly because of their race or beliefs
v6 – legalistic	(adjective)	too concerned with strict attention to legal details
v6 – righteousness	(noun)	the quality of doing what is just and right
v6 – faultless	(adjective)	perfect; without error
v7 – profit	(noun)	advantage; benefit
v7 – ‘for the sake of’	(phrase)	for the purpose of something; in order to achieve or gain something
v8 – surpassing	(adjective)	exceptional; extraordinary
v9 – faith	(noun)	trust; belief; dependence
v10 – resurrection	(noun)	the condition of being raised to life after being dead
v10 – fellowship	(noun)	the state of sharing a common purpose or activity
v10 – sufferings	(noun)	severe pain
v11 – attain	(verb)	reach or arrive at an outcome in time and space
v12 – obtained	(verb)	achieved
v12 – press on	(phrasal verb)	continue in an activity or task in a determined way
v13 – straining	(verb)	making a great effort to do something even when it is difficult to do
v14 – goal	(noun)	something you hope to achieve, especially when a lot of time and effort is needed
v14 – heavenward	(adverb)	in the direction of heaven; aiming towards where God is
v15 – mature	(adjective)	well-developed; advanced

**Philippians 3:1-16 (New International Reader's Version)**

<sup>1</sup> Further, my brothers and sisters, be joyful because you belong to the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write about some important matters to you again. If you know about them, you will have a safe path to follow. <sup>2</sup> Watch out for those dogs. They are people who do evil things. When they circumcise, it is nothing more than a useless cutting of the body. <sup>3</sup> But we have been truly circumcised. We serve God by the power of his Spirit. We boast about what Christ Jesus has done. We don't put our trust in who we are or what we can do. <sup>4</sup> I have many reasons to trust in who I am and what I have done. Someone else may think they have reasons to trust in these things. But I have even more.

<sup>5</sup> I was circumcised on the eighth day. I am part of the people of Israel. I am from the tribe of Benjamin. I am a pure Hebrew. As far as the law is concerned, I am a Pharisee. <sup>6</sup> As far as being committed is concerned, I opposed and attacked the church. As far as keeping the law is concerned, I kept it perfectly.

<sup>7</sup> I thought things like that were really something great. But now I consider them to be nothing because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Even more, I consider everything to be nothing compared to knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. To know him is worth much more than anything else. Because of him I have lost everything. But I consider all of it to be garbage so I can know Christ better. <sup>9</sup> I want to be joined to him. Being right with God does not come from my obeying the law. It comes because I believe in Christ. It comes from God because of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ better. Yes, I want to know the power that raised him from the dead. I want to join him in his sufferings. I want to become like him by sharing in his death. <sup>11</sup> Then by God's grace I will rise from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> I have not yet received all these things. I have not yet reached my goal. Christ Jesus took hold of me so that I could reach that goal. So I keep pushing myself forward to reach it. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I don't consider that I have taken hold of it yet. But here is the one thing I do. I forget what is behind me. I push hard toward what is ahead of me. <sup>14</sup> I push myself forward toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself.

<sup>15</sup> So all of us who are grown up in the faith should see things this way. Maybe you think differently about something. But God will make it clear to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already reached.

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