



Reset

Philippians

Easter Changed Everything If the Tomb Is Empty, Your Story Is Not Over

Easter is not just a holiday we celebrate. It is the moment that changed everything. When Jesus walked out of the grave, He did more than prove His power over death. He made a way for hope to come alive in the places where we feel fear, loss, confusion, and uncertainty.

That is what this week is about.

A lot of us believe the resurrection matters forever. The deeper question is whether we believe it matters right now. Does it matter on the ordinary days? Does it matter when life feels uncertain? Does it matter when something in us or around us feels buried?

The good news of Easter is this: if the tomb is empty, then Jesus is alive. If Jesus is alive, then death does not get the final word. Fear does not get the final word. Sin does not get the final word. And whatever part of your story feels too broken, too late, or too far gone is not beyond the reach of God.

This week, we are going to slow down and let the resurrection speak into real life. Not just someday. Right now.

Monday

The Resurrection Meets Us in Our Questions

Scripture: Luke 24:1-8

On the first Easter morning, the women did not arrive at the tomb with certainty. They arrived carrying spices, grief, and confusion. They were not expecting resurrection. They were expecting death. And when they found the stone rolled away and the body gone, Luke tells us they were wondering what had happened.

That matters because it reminds us that Easter did not begin with people who had everything figured out. It began with people who were trying to make sense of what God was doing. People who were confused. People who were grieving. People who had questions.

Sometimes we assume faith means clarity all the time. We think mature faith means we never wrestle, never wonder, never struggle to understand. But the Easter story tells a different story. God was at work in the middle of their confusion, not after it. He did not wait for them to get everything together before meeting them. He met them right there.

That means your questions do not disqualify you from encountering Jesus. Your confusion does not scare God. Your grief does not push Him away. The resurrection meets real people in real places, and often those places are messier than we want to admit.

Maybe today you are carrying a question you have not said out loud. Maybe you are trying to make sense of something that does not fit what you thought God would do. Easter reminds us that Jesus is still willing to meet people in places like that.

Reflection

What question or confusion are you carrying right now that you need to bring honestly before God?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You that You are not scared of my questions. Meet me in the middle of what I do not understand. Help me trust that even when I cannot see clearly, You are still at work. Amen.

Tuesday

The Resurrection Is More Than Wishful Thinking

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Paul says the resurrection is of first importance. Christ died for our sins. He was buried. He was raised on the third day. And then He appeared to Peter, to the Twelve, to more than five hundred people at one time, and then to others as well. This is not myth language. This is eyewitness language.

That matters because hope is only as strong as what it is built on. If the resurrection is just a comforting story, then it may inspire us for a moment, but it will not hold us when life gets hard. If Jesus did not really rise, then Christianity is just religious encouragement. But if He did rise, then everything changes.

The resurrection is not something Christians made up to feel better about loss. It is an event that broke into history. The empty tomb and the risen Christ became the foundation of the church because real people saw Him alive.

That gives us something solid to stand on when life feels shaky. Our hope is not built on positive thinking. It is not built on emotional hype. It is built on the risen Jesus.

So when life gets hard, our confidence is not in our ability to stay strong. Our confidence is in the One who walked out of the grave. The resurrection is not just a nice thought. It is the foundation of our faith.

Reflection

When life gets hard, what do you tend to build your hope on besides Jesus?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You that my faith rests on something real. Strengthen my confidence in You. Help me build my hope on who You are and what You have done. Amen.

Wednesday

Death Does Not Get the Last Word

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 54-57

Paul says Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. He goes on to say that in Adam all die, but in Christ all will be made alive. Then he writes some of the boldest words in all of Scripture: “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

The resurrection is God’s declaration that death does not get the final say. Sin does not get the final say. The grave does not get the final say. What looked final on Friday was over-

turned on Sunday.

That truth is bigger than the end of life. It also reaches into the parts of our story that feel dead right now. Sometimes it is not a physical grave we are staring at. Sometimes it is a broken relationship. A long unanswered prayer. A failure we regret. A burden we thought would be gone by now. A place where we have quietly decided, "This is just how it is."

Easter does not promise that every hard thing changes overnight. But it does tell us that nothing is beyond the power of God. If death itself does not get the last word, then the things in your life that feel dead do not get the last word either.

That means you can keep praying. Keep trusting. Keep bringing the broken places to Jesus. Not because you are pretending everything is fine, but because the resurrection says God is not finished.

Reflection

What feels final in your life right now? What would it look like to believe that God still has the final word?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You that death does not get the last word. Help me trust You with the places in my life that feel too broken, too buried, or too far gone. Amen.

Thursday

A Living Hope for Right Now

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3

Peter says that in God's great mercy, He has given us new

birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Not just a future hope. A living hope.

That phrase matters. A living hope is not distant. It is not abstract. It is active, present, and alive. It speaks into today.

Because Jesus rose, hope is not just something waiting for us at the end of the story. It is something we can live from right now. That means forgiveness is available now. New beginnings are possible now. Strength for the weary is available now. Comfort for the hurting is available now.

A lot of us think of hope as wishful thinking. We say things like, “I hope it gets better,” but we are really just trying to stay positive. Biblical hope is different. Biblical hope is rooted in the character and victory of Jesus. It is not uncertain. It is alive.

That means you do not have to wait until every circumstance changes before you live with hope. You can walk into today with confidence that Jesus is alive, present, and at work. The resurrection is not just about life after death. It is about the life of Jesus breaking into the ordinary places of your life right now.

Reflection

Where do you need living hope today, not just someday?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for living hope. Meet me in the places where I feel tired, discouraged, or stuck. Help me live today in the strength of Your resurrection. Amen.

Friday

You Do Not Just Observe Easter, You Respond to It

Scripture: Romans 10:9

Paul writes that if you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. That means the resurrection is not just something to think about. It is something to respond to.

There comes a point where Easter has to become personal. We cannot stay neutral forever. Either Jesus is still dead and this is only tradition, or He is alive and He is Lord.

For some people, the response is a first step. It is the moment you stop admiring Jesus from a distance and actually trust Him with your life. It is the moment you stop relying on your own goodness or religious background and surrender yourself fully to Him.

For others, the response is a next step. You already follow Jesus, but there are parts of your life where fear has gotten louder than faith. Places where you have stopped expecting resurrection. Places where you need to trust Him again.

The question is not just whether you believe Easter happened. The question is what you are going to do with the risen Jesus. Faith is not just agreement with facts. It is trust in a person.

If the tomb is empty, then Jesus is alive. If Jesus is alive, then He is Lord. And if He is Lord, then the right response is surrender.

Reflection

What is your response to Jesus right now? Is it a first step of

faith or a next step of trust?

Prayer

Jesus, I believe You died for me and rose again. Help me trust You fully. Show me the step You are calling me to take, and give me the courage to take it. Amen.

Small Group Guide

Opening Question

What is one part of the Easter message that stayed with you the most this week?

Read Together

Luke 24:1-8

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

1 Peter 1:3

Romans 10:9

Discussion Questions

What stood out to you most about the women arriving at the tomb with confusion, grief, and questions?

Why do you think it matters that the resurrection is rooted in eyewitness history and not just religious feeling?

What is one area of your life where you need to believe that death, fear, or failure does not get the last word?

What does “living hope” mean to you in a practical sense

right now?

What is one first step or next step of response Jesus may be inviting you to take?

Leader Insight

Do not rush people to polished answers. Let this be a week where people can speak honestly about what feels buried, broken, or uncertain. The goal is not to force confidence. The goal is to help people see that the resurrection speaks into real life and invites real trust.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, thank You that the tomb is empty and that Your story is still changing ours. Meet us in our questions, strengthen our hope, and teach us to trust You with the parts of life that feel uncertain. Help us become people who live from the resurrection and point others to You. Amen.

RESET

Changing the Scoreboard of Your Life with Philippians

Who wrote this?

The apostle Paul wrote this letter while he was in prison. Not from comfort, but from confinement. And yet, his focus is not on himself. It is on Jesus and the advance of the gospel.

Who is it written to?

A church in Philippi, people Paul knew personally. This was a real group of believers whose story began back in Acts 16:11-15. They were not perfect, but they were engaged. They partnered in the mission of God from the very beginning.

What is this devotional about?

Over the next four weeks, you will read through the entire book of Philippians. The goal is not just to read it, but to understand it. To see what Paul is saying and how it applies to your life right now.

When and where was this written?

Around AD 60, while Paul was under Roman guard. Limited in movement, uncertain about his future, yet completely clear about his purpose.

Why does this matter?

Because you are already keeping score.

You have a way of measuring your life. What makes a day good. What makes you feel like you are doing well. And if that scoreboard is off, everything feels off.

Paul writes this letter to reset that.

Again and again, he brings everything back to one question
Is Christ at the center?

Not added to your life. Not part of your life. But the center of it.

This devotional is an invitation to step back, see clearly, and let God reset what really matters.

Monday: Reset Your Purpose

Day 1: Partnership in the Gospel

Read Philippians 1:1-6

Paul opens with gratitude, but not just general gratitude. He thanks God for their “partnership in the gospel.” That word matters more than we often realize. It is not casual involvement. It is shared participation, shared investment, shared mission over time.

Notice the phrase “from the first day until now.” This is not a burst of early enthusiasm. This is sustained, ongoing commitment. The Philippians did not just respond to the gospel once. They continued to align their lives with it.

If you go back to Acts 16:11-15, you see where that “first day” began. Lydia opens her home. The gospel takes root in a real place, among real people, through real sacrifice. What Paul is celebrating in Philippians 1 is not theory. It is the long-term fruit of a church that has stayed engaged in the mission of God.

This is important because we often think of faith as something we believe or attend. Paul speaks of it as something we enter and continue in. Partnership means your life is tied to the progress of the gospel, not just your personal growth.

So here is the deeper issue. It is possible to believe the

gospel without really joining it. It is possible to attend church without participating in the mission of Christ.

A reset of the scoreboard begins here. Not with doing more, but with recognizing what you are part of. The gospel is not just about your rescue. It is about God's mission moving through your life.

Reflection Questions

Where has your faith become more private than participatory?

What evidence is there in your life that you are partnered in the gospel?

Who is being impacted by your faith right now?

Prayer

God, I do not want a passive faith. Show me where I have been watching instead of participating. Reorder my life so that I am invested in what you are doing.

Tuesday: Love That Knows What Matters Most

Read Philippians 1:7-11

Paul prays that their love would abound more and more, but he does not stop at emotion. He adds "in knowledge and depth of insight." That means Christian love is not only sincere, it is shaped by truth.

But do not miss where this prayer is going. Paul says this kind of love leads to being "pure and blameless for the day of Christ." That gives the whole prayer direction. This is not just about making better daily decisions. It is about preparing for the return of Christ.

That is the part we often miss. We reduce discernment to choosing between good and bad, or even good and best. Paul is thinking bigger. He is asking, what kind of life will stand when Christ returns?

This connects with Romans 12:2, but here it is even more focused. Renewed thinking is not just for clarity now. It is for readiness then.

So, the question is not only, what is best in this moment? The deeper question is, what kind of person am I becoming?

A reset of the scoreboard requires that shift. You stop measuring decisions by what is easiest or most immediate, and you begin measuring them by what leads toward a life that is ready for Christ.

Reflection Questions

Where are you choosing what is easy instead of what is best?

What is currently shaping your definition of love? Scripture or culture?

What decision in your life right now requires deeper discernment?

Prayer

God, grow my love in truth. Teach me to see clearly and choose wisely, not just quickly or comfortably.

Wednesday: When Your Circumstances Do Not Change, But Your Perspective Does

Read Philippians 1:12-14

Paul says, “what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.” That is not vague optimism. He is pointing to something specific.

His chains have done two things. First, they have made Christ known among the palace guard. Second, they have made other believers bolder to speak.

In other words, his suffering is not just being “used by God” in a general sense. It is actively moving the gospel forward in multiple directions.

This is where we need to be careful. We often go quickly to Romans 8:28 and say God works all things for good. That is true. But in this passage, Paul is not speaking generally. He is naming how God is using his situation for gospel impact.

That is a sharper lens.

Most people evaluate life by asking, is this working for me? Paul evaluates life by asking, is Christ being made known?

That is the reset.

If your life is centered on comfort, difficulty will feel like failure. But if your life is centered on Christ, even difficulty can become part of your calling.

The goal is not just to believe that God can use hard things. The goal is to begin asking, how is God using this right now?

Reflection Questions

What situation in your life have you only labeled as negative?

How might God be using that exact situation for something greater?

Do you evaluate your life more by comfort or by calling?

Prayer

God, change how I see my circumstances. Help me to look for your purpose, not just my preference.

Thursday: When Your Identity Is Not on the Line

Read Philippians 1:15-20

Paul acknowledges that some are preaching Christ out of envy and selfish ambition. That matters. Motives are not irrelevant. But then he says something surprising. “What does it matter? The important thing is that in every way... Christ is preached.”

Notice what Paul is doing. He is not celebrating bad motives. He is prioritizing the true message of Christ being proclaimed.

That tells you what matters most to him. Not his reputation. Not his influence. Not whether people are treating him fairly. His primary concern is that Christ is made known.

This is where Galatians 1:10 helps. Paul asks whether he is living for the approval of people or the approval of God. That is the real issue underneath everything. Then you see the opposite in John 12:42-43. There were people who believed in Jesus, but they would not follow him openly because they valued human praise more than God's.

Paul is free from that. He is not trying to protect his position. He is focused on the mission.

This exposes something in us. We want Jesus to be known, but we also want to be the one through whom he is known. And when that is threatened, we feel it.

A reset of the scoreboard means this. Christ being known matters more than me being recognized.

That is a deeper kind of freedom than most people experience.

Reflection Questions

Where do you feel threatened by someone else's success?

Whose approval are you quietly chasing right now?

Would you still rejoice if Christ was clearly seen but you were not?

Prayer

God, free me from the need to be seen. Anchor my identity in you so that I can celebrate what you are doing, regardless of my role.

Friday: What Actually Counts as a Win

Read Philippians 1:21-30

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” This is not just a statement of belief. It is a redefinition of life.

But do not miss what comes right after. Paul says that remaining alive means “fruitful labor” for others. He is torn, not because he fears death, but because he knows staying means continued investment in their growth.

That matters. For Paul, “to live is Christ” does not mean private devotion alone. It means a life poured out for the sake of others.

This connects with Luke 9:23-25, where Jesus says following him means denying yourself and taking up your cross daily. That is not abstract. It is where this hits real life. It is choosing faithfulness over comfort. Choosing people when it costs you. Choosing obedience when no one is clapping. That is what it looks like to lose your life for him.

Then Paul says, “conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel.” In a Roman colony like Philippi, that language would sound like citizenship language. Your life reflects the kingdom you belong to.

So the question is not just, do I believe the gospel? It is, does my life reflect it?

A reset of the scoreboard means redefining what a good day is. Not a day where everything went your way, but a day where Christ was honored and others were strengthened.

That is the kind of life Paul is calling them into.

Reflection Questions

What currently defines success in your life?

If you lost comfort or control, would Christ still be enough?

What would it look like for Christ to be your life, not just part of it?

Prayer

Jesus, reset my definition of success. I surrender what I have been chasing. Teach me to live for you, not just include you.

Week 1 Small Group Guide

Reset Your Purpose

Opening Question

What usually makes a day feel like a “win” for you?

Read Together

Philippians 1:12-21

Discussion Questions

What stood out to you most from this week’s devotional?

How does Paul’s situation challenge the way you think about purpose?

Where do you see your life being shaped more by comfort than calling?

What does “partnership in the gospel” actually look like in real life?

If “to live is Christ,” how would that change your daily decisions?

Leader Insight

Help the group see that Paul is not being theoretical. He is in prison, yet fully aligned with purpose. The goal is not to feel guilty, but to recognize where our scoreboard has drifted and begin to realign it around Christ.

Challenge for the Week

Choose one area of your life where you will intentionally shift from comfort to calling. Be specific.

Closing Prayer

God, reset our purpose. Help us stop measuring life by what is easy and start living for what matters to you.

Week 2: Reset Your Mindset
Monday: Unity Is a Gospel Issue
Read Philippians 2:1-4

Paul begins with a series of “if” statements, but he is not questioning anything. He is pointing to realities the Philippians already share. Encouragement in Christ. Comfort from his love. Fellowship with the Spirit. These are not ideas. These are experiences that should shape how they live together.

So Paul moves straight to unity. Not surface level agreement, but shared direction. “Being like-minded... of one mind.” That does not mean sameness in personality. It means alignment in purpose.

Then he presses deeper. “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.” In a Roman culture built on status and recognition, that would have been normal. Paul says it cannot be normal for followers of Jesus.

Instead, “value others above yourselves.” That is not vague humility. That is a reorientation of how you see people. Their needs matter. Their growth matters. Their place in the mission of God matters.

Jesus said the world would recognize his followers by their love for one another in John 13:34-35. That means unity is not just internal health. It is external witness.

So here is the question. When people look at your relationships, do they see evidence of Christ?

Reflection Questions

Where does selfish ambition show up in your life more than you want to admit?

Are there relationships where pride has made unity difficult?

Do you value the witness of the church enough to surrender your preferences for the sake of love?

Prayer

God, search my heart and expose pride in me. Forgive me for the ways I make too much of myself. Teach me to value others above myself and to protect the unity your Son died to create.

Tuesday: The Mind of Christ Is the Downward Way

Read Philippians 2:5-8

Paul does not simply say, “Be humble.” He points to Jesus.

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.” That means humility is not a personality trait. It is a way of seeing life shaped by the example of Christ.

Then Paul walks us through what Jesus actually did. He did not cling to his position. He did not use his status for his own advantage. He emptied himself. He took on the nature of a servant. He humbled himself all the way to the cross.

Do not miss the direction. Everything moves downward. From glory to humility. From power to service. From life to death.

That challenges how we naturally think. We assume growth means moving up. More influence. More recognition. More control. Jesus shows a different way. The life that honors God most is the one willing to go low in love.

Paul says something similar in 2 Corinthians 8:9. Jesus moved toward us in costly grace. He did not stay distant. He came near, and it cost him.

So here is the question. Where are you still holding onto something Jesus would have laid down?

Reflection Questions

What does this passage reveal about the kind of life Jesus actually values?

Where are you resisting the downward way of Christ?

If someone watched your life closely, would they see humility that looks like Jesus or ambition that looks like the world?

Prayer

Jesus, forgive me for how often I want your glory without your humility. Shape my mind after yours. Teach me to surrender, to serve, and to obey, even when it costs me.

Wednesday: Exaltation Belongs to God, Not You

Read Philippians 2:9-11

After the humility of Christ comes the exaltation of Christ. “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place.”

Notice the order. Jesus humbled himself. God lifted him up. Jesus did not take the highest place. He received it.

That matters for how we live. We often want obedience and recognition at the same time. We want our sacrifice to be noticed. We want faithfulness to pay off quickly. But the pattern of Jesus is different. Obedience is ours. Exaltation belongs to God.

Then Paul expands the picture. Every knee will bow. Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is not just a personal belief. This is where history is headed.

That language should sound familiar. In Isaiah 45:22-23, God declares that every knee will bow to him. Now Paul places Jesus in that position. That tells you who Jesus is. Not just teacher. Not just example. Lord.

So the real question is not whether Jesus will be acknowledged. He will. The question is whether you are living under his lordship now.

Reflection Questions

Where are you trying to lift yourself up instead of trusting God to do it?

Do you treat Jesus as Savior only, or as Lord also?

What would it look like to submit more fully to his lordship in one specific area this week?

Prayer

Father, I trust you with the outcome of my obedience. Jesus, I bow before your lordship. Let my life confess now what every knee will one day confess forever.

Thursday: Salvation Worked Out, Not Worked For

Read Philippians 2:12-16

Paul says, “work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” He is not telling them to earn salvation. He is telling them to live out what God has already done in them.

Then he grounds it. “For it is God who works in you.” That tension matters. You are called to act, but your ability to act comes from God at work within you.

Then Paul brings it into everyday life. No grumbling. No arguing.

That can feel small, but it is not. The way you respond in ordinary moments reveals what is happening in your heart. Frustration, conflict, and complaint often show where we are still resisting God’s work.

Paul says that as you live differently, “you will shine... like stars.” That image matters. Light does not argue for its presence. It shows up.

Jesus used the same picture in Matthew 5:14-16. Your life is meant to be visible in a dark world.

So here is the question. What does your everyday response say about your faith?

Reflection Questions

Do you tend to think of obedience as response to grace or a way to earn favor?

Where does grumbling or arguing expose a deeper resistance in your heart?

In what ways is your faith visibly distinct from the world around you?

Prayer

God, thank you that I do not work for salvation. I work from it. Continue your work in me until the character of Christ is visible in the ordinary places of my life.

Friday: The Gospel Needs Real Examples

Read Philippians 2:19-30

It would be easy to skim this section, but Paul includes Timothy and Epaphroditus for a reason. He wants the Philippians to see what this life actually looks like.

Timothy stands out because he genuinely cares. Paul says most people look out for their own interests. Timothy looks out for the interests of Christ. That is rare.

Epaphroditus stands out because he risked his life. He carried the church's support to Paul and nearly died doing it. Paul tells them to honor people like him.

That is the key. Paul is shaping what the church values. Not platform. Not visibility. Not personality. Faithfulness. Sacrifice. Service.

The early church was told to pay attention to lives worth following in Hebrews 13:7. Not just what people say, but how they live and where their life leads.

So ask yourself. Who are you learning from? And what kind of example are you becoming?

Reflection Questions

What kind of people do you naturally admire?

Do you honor faithfulness and sacrifice as much as talent and visibility?

Who is watching your life and learning from your example?

Prayer

God, train my eyes to value what you value. Give me real examples to follow, and make me into someone whose life points others toward faithful obedience.

Week 2 Small Group Guide

Reset Your Mindset

Opening Question

Where do you tend to think about yourself the most, your needs, your stress, your perspective?

Read Together

Philippians 2:3-8

Discussion Questions

What stood out to you most from this week?

Why is unity such a big deal in this passage?

Where does selfish ambition show up in subtle ways in your life?

What is one situation right now where you need to choose humility?

Leader Insight

Do not let this stay abstract. Paul ties mindset directly to relationships. The clearest evidence of a Christ-shaped mind is how we treat people, especially when it costs us.

Challenge for the Week

Identify one relationship where you will choose humility over being right.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, shape our minds to look like yours. Teach us to lay down what we naturally hold onto.

Week 3: Reset Your Values

Reading Focus: Philippians 3 and Philippians 4:14-19

Monday: False Confidence Is Still False, Even When It

Looks Spiritual

Read Philippians 3:1-6

Paul begins with a warning. “Watch out.” That is strong language, and it tells us that spiritual danger is real. The threat in this chapter is not open rebellion. It is misplaced confidence. Specifically, confidence in the flesh.

What does Paul mean by that? He means confidence rooted in human credentials, human performance, human distinctives, and human effort. He lists his own resume to prove the point. Circumcised on the eighth day. Of the people of Israel. Of the tribe of Benjamin. A Hebrew of Hebrews. A Pharisee. Zealous. Faultless according to the law. If anyone could build a case for righteousness on the basis of religious achievement, Paul could.

That is what makes this passage so searching. Paul is not talking about obviously sinful sources of identity. He is talking about religiously impressive ones. It is possible to look spiritually serious and still be fundamentally trusting in yourself.

Jesus once told a story about two men praying in the temple in Luke 18:9-14. One pointed to everything he had done right. The other simply asked for mercy. Jesus said the one who depended on mercy, not performance, was the one who went home justified. That is the line Paul is drawing here.

This means the old scoreboard is not only worldly success. It can also be religious success. Church involvement. Bible knowledge. Moral behavior. Sound doctrine. These things matter, but they become dangerous when they become the reason you feel secure before God.

A reset of the scoreboard begins here. I stop trusting what I bring, and I place my confidence fully in Christ.

Reflection Questions

Where are you tempted to feel spiritually secure because of your own track record?

Do you ever compare yourself to others in ways that feed pride?

What religious strengths in your life could quietly become substitutes for dependence on Christ?

Prayer

God, expose every place where I am trusting in myself. Strip away false confidence and teach me to boast only in Christ Jesus.

Tuesday: Christ Does Not Improve Your Scoreboard, He Replaces It

Read Philippians 3:7-9

Paul does not say his old gains became less important. He says they became loss. Then he intensifies it. "I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." This is not adjustment. It is total reevaluation.

What used to define him no longer holds weight. What once gave him identity is now set aside. Not because those things were meaningless, but because they cannot compare to Christ.

Paul even calls them garbage. He is not being dramatic. He

is being clear. Compared to Christ, every other source of identity and worth is insufficient.

Notice the heart of the passage. “That I may gain Christ and be found in him.” This is not just subtraction. It is relocation. His identity is no longer built on what he has done, but on being found in Christ.

Paul explains this same idea in 1 Corinthians 1:30-31. He says our righteousness comes from Christ, not from ourselves, so that no one can boast. That means your standing with God is not something you achieve, but something you receive.

When your identity is received instead of earned, your grip begins to loosen. You no longer have to prove yourself, protect yourself, or build your worth.

A reset of the scoreboard means this. I stop measuring life by what once made me feel valuable, and I begin measuring everything by the worth of knowing Christ.

Reflection Questions

What still competes with Christ for first place in your heart?

If your life revealed what you truly treasure, what would it show?

Do you want the gifts of God more than the God who gives them?

Prayer

Jesus, forgive me for the ways I still cling to lesser things. Teach me to count as loss whatever keeps me from treasuring you above all else.

Wednesday: Knowing Christ Means Following Him All the Way

Read Philippians 3:10-14

Paul's desire is simple and yet demanding. "I want to know Christ." But then he defines it in a way that challenges most of us.

To know his resurrection power. And to share in his sufferings. To become like him in his death.

Paul refuses to separate what we often try to divide. We want the power of Christ without the path of Christ. We want new life without costly surrender. Paul understands that both belong together.

Resurrection is not abstract victory. It is the vindication of a life that has already been surrendered.

Then Paul says, "Not that I have already obtained all this." That matters. Even at this point in his life, Paul does not speak as someone who has arrived. He speaks as someone still pressing forward.

He is not coasting. He is pursuing.

Earlier in Scripture, we are told that God's goal is to shape us into the likeness of his Son in Romans 8:29. That means the aim of your life is not simply stability or comfort, but becoming more like Jesus.

A reset of the scoreboard means this. I stop confusing spiritual comfort with maturity, and I begin pressing on toward deeper obedience and deeper surrender.

Reflection Questions

Do you pursue Christ himself or mostly the benefits you re-

ceive from him?

Where have you become passive in your spiritual life?

What does “pressing on” look like for you in this season?

Prayer

Jesus, deepen my desire to know you. Not just your gifts, not just your help, but you. Keep me from complacency and draw me further into your life, your power, and your way.

Thursday: Your Citizenship Determines Your Direction

Read Philippians 3:15-21

Paul now shifts from warning to identity. “Our citizenship is in heaven.” In a Roman colony like Philippi, that would have carried real weight. Citizenship shaped identity, loyalty, and pride.

Paul takes that same idea and redirects it. Your truest belonging is not defined by your culture, your status, or your surroundings. It is defined by the kingdom you belong to.

Then he contrasts two ways of living. Some have their minds set on earthly things. Their lives are driven by appetite and desire. Their focus stays anchored in what is temporary.

But believers are different. Not because they leave the world, but because they are no longer shaped by it.

Paul lifts their eyes forward. We are waiting for a Savior who will transform our lowly bodies. That future is not distant theory. It is meant to shape present decisions.

In another letter, Paul tells believers to set their minds on

things above in Colossians 3:1-2, meaning to let heaven shape how you think and live right now, not just someday.

A reset of the scoreboard means this. I stop taking my cues from what is temporary, and I begin living as someone whose true home is with Christ.

Reflection Questions

What most visibly shapes your values right now, heaven or earth?

In what ways are you being disciplined by the culture around you?

How would your choices look different if you truly lived as a citizen of heaven?

Prayer

God, lift my eyes above what is temporary. Train my heart to live in this world without belonging to its values. Make heaven's citizenship visible in the way I live today.

Friday: Generosity Reveals What You Really Believe About Gain

Read Philippians 4:14-19

Paul now points to the Philippians themselves. Their generosity is not a side note. It is a visible expression of everything he has been teaching.

They shared in his trouble. They gave more than once. They supported the mission when others did not. This is what a redefined value system looks like in real life.

Paul is clear. He is not ultimately after the gift. "I am not look-

ing for a gift.” What he desires is what it produces in them. “What may be credited to your account.”

In other words, generosity is not just about meeting a need. It is about participating in the work of God and investing in what lasts.

He describes their gift as a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. That language comes from worship. Their giving is not just financial. It is spiritual.

Jesus taught that where your treasure is, your heart will be also in Matthew 6:19-21. What you invest in reveals what you truly believe matters.

Then Paul says, “And my God will meet all your needs.” This is not a blanket promise disconnected from life. It is spoken to people who have trusted God with their resources and partnered in his mission.

A reset of the scoreboard means this. I stop seeing generosity as loss, and I begin seeing it as trust, worship, and participation in what lasts.

Reflection Questions

What does your giving reveal about your actual values?

Do you see generosity primarily as sacrifice, obligation, or worship?

Where is God inviting you to trust him more deeply with your resources?

Prayer

God, make me generous in a way that reflects trust in you and love for your mission. Free me from the fear that clings to stuff and teach me the joy of investing in what lasts.

Week 3 Small Group Guide

Reset Your Values

Opening Question

What are the things people usually point to when they feel successful or secure?

Read Together

Philippians 3:7-9 and Philippians 4:14-17

Discussion Questions

What stood out to you most from this week?

What are some “good” things that can quietly become your source of identity?

What does it mean to “count everything as loss” compared to Christ?

How does generosity reveal what you truly value?

Where is it hardest for you to let go and trust God?

Leader Insight

Paul is not just rejecting bad things. He is reclassifying good things that became ultimate things. Help the group see that this is about identity and trust, not just behavior.

Challenge for the Week

Take one step of generosity that stretches you. Not out of guilt, but as a response to what you value.

Closing Prayer

God, reset what we value. Help us see Christ as greater than everything else we are holding onto.

Week 4: Reset Your Daily Life

Reading Focus: Philippians 4

Monday: Spiritual Maturity Shows Up in Relationships

Read Philippians 4:1-3

Paul begins chapter 4 not with abstract theology but with relational tension. Euodia and Syntyche are named directly and urged to agree in the Lord. That tells us something important. Even in a healthy church, conflict can become real. Even among gospel workers, relationships can fracture.

Why would Paul include this publicly in the letter? Not to shame them, but to show that gospel faithfulness cannot be disconnected from relational faithfulness. You cannot claim to be spiritually mature while nursing division, clinging to offense, or refusing reconciliation.

Notice also that these women had contended at Paul's side in the cause of the gospel. They were not peripheral. They were participants in ministry. And still, conflict had to be addressed. Ministry involvement does not automatically produce relational health. Sometimes it exposes relational weakness.

Jesus taught that if you are on your way to worship but remember a broken relationship, you stop and make it right first in Matthew 5:23-24. Reconciliation is not an optional step in the Christian life. It is part of what it means to take God seriously.

A reset of the scoreboard means this. I stop measuring spiritual health only by what I know or do, and I begin measuring it also by how I pursue peace, humility, and reconciliation.

Reflection Questions

Is there a relationship in your life where unresolved tension

is quietly hardening your heart?

Do you avoid conflict, inflame conflict, or pursue godly reconciliation?

What would obedience look like if you took relational discipleship seriously?

Prayer

God, search my relationships. Reveal where pride, hurt, or stubbornness have taken root. Give me courage to pursue peace in a way that honors you.

Tuesday: Joy Is Not Denial, It Is Defiance

Read Philippians 4:4-5

“Rejoice in the Lord always.” Paul says it twice because he knows how difficult it is to believe. This is not cheap positivity. This is not emotional denial. Paul is not pretending life is easy. He is commanding joy from prison.

How is that possible? Because joy in Philippians is not rooted in circumstances. It is rooted in the Lord. That means joy is not the absence of pain. It is the presence of a deeper reality that pain cannot finally destroy.

Paul also says, “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.” Gentleness here is not weakness. It is the settled, non-retaliatory strength of someone who knows Christ is near, both in presence and in coming. The nearness of the Lord becomes the reason both for joy and for restraint.

There is a moment in Habakkuk 3:17-18 where everything is failing. No crops. No fruit. No visible provision. And yet he says he will still rejoice in God. Not because life is working,

but because God is still who He is. That is the kind of joy Paul is talking about.

A reset of the scoreboard means this. I stop treating joy as the reward of favorable circumstances and begin receiving it as the fruit of a life anchored in Christ.

Reflection Questions

What have you been treating as necessary for joy that Scripture does not?

Does your emotional life suggest that Christ is enough, or that circumstances are still your master?

How does the nearness of the Lord change the way you face today?

Prayer

Lord, teach me to rejoice in you, not just in what you give. Make my joy deeper than comfort and my gentleness stronger than my fear.

Wednesday: Anxiety Is Fought Through Prayerful Dependence

Read Philippians 4:6-7

Paul does not say there is nothing to be anxious about. He says, "Do not be anxious about anything." In other words, the answer to anxiety is not the absence of reasons for concern. It is the presence of God in the middle of them.

This passage is not simplistic. Paul knows suffering. He knows uncertainty. He knows pressure. But he calls the believer to bring everything to God in prayer, petition, and thanksgiving. That word "everything" matters. The Christian

is invited to drag nothing privately and bring nothing selectively. All of life is to be brought before God.

Notice too that the result is not necessarily immediate change in circumstances. It is the peace of God guarding heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Paul uses military imagery. God's peace stands guard over the inner life. That is especially fitting in a Roman colony and from a man under guard himself.

Peter writes something similar in 1 Peter 5:7, telling believers to cast their anxiety on God because He cares for them. Not manage it alone. Not carry it quietly. Hand it over because you are not alone in it.

A reset of the scoreboard means this. I stop treating control as the path to peace and begin entrusting myself to the God who guards my heart in Christ.

Reflection Questions

What burdens are you carrying that you have not actually handed to God?

Do you pray specifically, or do you mostly worry internally?

What would thanksgiving look like even before your circumstances change?

Prayer

Father, I bring to you what I cannot carry alone. Guard my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus. Teach me to pray specifically, honestly, and trustingly.

Thursday: What Fills Your Mind Is Forming Your Life

Read Philippians 4:8-9

Paul now turns to the thoughts in our minds. Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy, think about such things. This is not superficial positivity. It is intentional mental discipleship.

The Christian mind is not to be passive. It is to be trained. What you repeatedly allow into your imagination, attention, and meditation is not neutral. It is forming your loves, shaping your reactions, and reinforcing your worldview.

Then Paul says, “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice.” Christian truth is never merely contemplated. It is embodied. Thought and action belong together.

Paul uses similar language in Romans 12:2, where he says transformation happens through the renewing of your mind. When your thinking changes, your life begins to follow. So ask yourself this. What has been shaping your thinking lately? Not just what you believe, but what you constantly take in and replay.

A reset of the scoreboard means, I stop treating the thoughts in my mind as private and harmless, and I begin seeing them as one of the main places where my life is being formed.

Reflection Questions

What occupies your mind most consistently right now?

Are the dominant thoughts in your life aligned with Paul’s list in this passage?

What do you need to remove, replace, or reinforce in your mental life?

Prayer

God, renew my mind. Expose the lies, fears, and patterns that are shaping me away from Christ. Train my thoughts to dwell on what is true and life giving.

Friday: Contentment Is Learned Through Dependence on Christ

Read Philippians 4:10-13, 20-23

Paul says he has learned the secret of being content in any and every situation. That word learned is important. Contentment is not natural. It is not a personality trait. It is a discipline of trust forged over time.

Paul understands what it is like to have plenty, and what it is like to be hungry and in need. He is not romanticizing lack of provision, nor is he idolizing abundance. His stability is not rooted in either. It is rooted in Christ. This is why Philippians 4:13 must be read carefully. "I can do all this through him who gives me strength" is not about limitless achievement. It is about steady endurance in every circumstance through the strength of Christ.

Then Paul closes with praise. "To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen." That is where the letter ends because that is where the reset leads. A life with a new scoreboard becomes a life aimed at the glory of God.

The writer of Hebrews reminds believers in Hebrews 13:5-6 that contentment is rooted in God's presence. Because God is with you, you do not have to live driven by what you lack. His presence steadies what circumstances cannot.

A reset of the scoreboard means this. I stop measuring life by what I currently have and begin measuring it by the suffi-

ciency of Christ who strengthens and sustains me.

Reflection Questions

What do you usually require in order to feel content?

How dependent is your peace on circumstances being favorable?

What would trusting Christ's sufficiency look like in your current season?

Prayer

Jesus, teach me the secret of contentment. Strip away the illusion that peace comes from having enough and lead me into the deeper peace of having you.

Week 4 Small Group Guide

Reset Your Daily Life

Opening Question

What tends to affect your peace the most during a normal week?

Read Together

Philippians 4:4-9

Discussion Questions

What stood out to you most from this week?

Which of these areas is hardest for you right now, joy, peace, thoughts, or contentment?

What does it look like to replace anxiety with prayer in a real situation?

What has been shaping your thinking lately without you realizing it?

How would your life look different if Christ was enough, even when circumstances are not?

Leader Insight

This is where everything becomes practical. Paul is showing what a reset life looks like in real rhythms. Help the group move from ideas to actual habits.

Challenge for the Week

Pick one daily practice to focus on, prayer instead of worry, truth instead of negative thinking, or gratitude instead of frustration.

Closing Prayer

God, meet us in our everyday lives. Teach us to live with peace, trust, and contentment that comes from you.



MARLBORO

Christian Church