



## Acts to Revelation

### Bible Course

### Lesson 35

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Read Philippians 3*

The joy of Christ: our goal (chapter 3). There is finally nothing that matters, except a person's relationship to Christ.

1. Who are intended in the warning in 3:2? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does Paul relate his own upbringing (vs. 4-7)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the true joy of life? "I \_\_\_\_\_ all things but \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus my \_\_\_\_\_ : for whom I have \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of all things, and do \_\_\_\_\_ them but dung, \_\_\_\_\_ I may \_\_\_\_\_ Christ" (v. 8).
4. What must we not have (vs. 9)? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What must be our goal? Write out verse 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What example of his own goal does Paul hold out for the believer in verses 13b and 14? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did Paul urge the church to be "followers of me", that is, imitate Paul to keep the right goal in focus (v. 17-20)?

- a. There are many whose worldly lifestyle corrupts them: “Whose end is \_\_\_\_\_ [eternal punishment], whose God is their \_\_\_\_\_ [gluttony, sexual immorality, unbridled lusts], and whose glory is in their \_\_\_\_\_ [infamous], who mind \_\_\_\_\_ things.”
- b. The believer’s citizenship is in heaven: imitating, or following Paul’s example to have one’s life be heavenly, rather than being earthly-minded and thus an enemy of the cross.

### *Read Philippians 4*

The joy of Christ: our strength and power (chapter 4). If Christ is our strength and power, we will trust Him and find our strength in Him. This will be seen in the thoughts and actions of our life.

8. What does the word “careful” mean in v. 6? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the remedy for anxiety? Write out verse 6: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
10. What are we urged to think about? Write out verse 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
11. Paul’s submission or resting in the strength and power of Christ is exhibited in v. 11: “I have \_\_\_\_\_, in whatsoever \_\_\_\_\_ I am, \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_.”
12. Where is the believer’s strength (v.13)? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Now write out Isaiah 45:24, which refers to a similar idea: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
14. Where did Paul find saints, according to this chapter?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

15. What encouragement does Paul give to believers: "My \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ according to his riches in \_\_\_\_\_ by  
\_\_\_\_\_."

**Evaluator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meditation: Philippians 4:4**

***"Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice."***

"He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast" Proverbs 15:15. Every believer in Christ hath a continual feast; therefore has always reason to be of a merry heart. When he is not, he lives below his privilege, and forgets his loving Lord's command. Though we daily find enemies to our spiritual joy, yet none can destroy our ground of rejoicing. That is fixed as a rock; permanent as the mountains; and standeth fast for ever and ever. Paul gives us, from experience, this as the Christian's motto, "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing." Though with him daily crying out, "O wretched man that I am," according to the flesh; yet thou hast the same reason always to thank God and rejoice in Jesus as Paul had. Though, in thyself, cause for mourning and humiliation, yet continual matter of joy and rejoicing in the Lord Jesus.

Christian, here is thy wisdom, to understand aright and act suitably to thy character: "as having nothing" in nature; "yet possessing all things" by grace: being united to Jesus, in whom all fullness dwells; and "blessed with all spiritual blessings" by God the Father in him. It is therefore our sweet privilege always to rejoice in Christ. We experience that believing views of Jesus cause rejoicing in him, *in* the Lord. Mind that little word *in*. The exercise of faith is ever to be on thy Lord. All cause of spiritual joy is in Jesus.

The word to us is, Believe and be joyful. If we search the Scriptures, which testify of Jesus; if we dwell much in meditation on His person, offices, blood, righteousness, intercession, we shall perceive never-failing springs of joy. Day by day be looking and praying, O soul, that through the Spirit thou mayest see and maintain a comfortable knowledge and settled assurance of thy own interest in Jesus, and salvation by Him. O this will cause thee to rejoice indeed, with joy unspeakable and full of glory! So that, even though outward things put on a gloomy appearance, yet shall we be like the steadfast prophet: "Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls" - what then? does he hang down his head like a bulrush? does joy of heart forsake him? No. Says he, "yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of *my* salvation" Habakkuk 3:17-18.

"Then let our joys abound, and every tear be dry;

"We're marching through Immanuel's ground to fairer worlds on high."

*Taken from "A Spiritual Treasury for the Children of God" by W. Mason*

### **Psalter 400 (based on Psalm 146)**

**Verse 1** Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,  
O my soul, Jehovah praise;  
I will sing the glorious praises  
Of my God through all my days.

**Verse 2** Put no confidence in princes,  
Nor for help on man depend;  
He shall die, to dust returning,  
And his purposes shall end.

**Verse 3** Happy is the man that chooses  
Israel's God to be his aid;  
He is blest whose hope of blessing  
On the Lord his God is stayed.

**Verse 4** Heav'n and earth the Lord created,  
Seas and all that they contain;  
He delivers from oppression,  
Righteousness He will maintain.

**Verse 5** Food He daily gives the hungry,  
Sets the mourning prisoner free,  
Raises those bowed down with anguish,  
Makes the sightless eyes to see.

**Verse 6** Well Jehovah loves the righteous,  
And the stranger He befriends,  
Helps the fatherless and widow,  
Judgment on the wicked sends.

**Verse 7** Over all God reigns forever,  
Through all ages He is King;  
Unto Him, thy God, O Zion,  
Joyful hallelujahs sing.