

## **A Study of the Epistles of Paul (NT Survey Lesson 174--Philippians 3)**

**Introduction:** Paul's joy centered in Jesus. "Rejoice in the Lord" (3:1); "Stand firm in the Lord" (4:1), he says. The basis of Paul's joy was the salvation he found through faith in Christ.

**Lesson aim: To encourage all of us to find the joy of knowing we are right with God.**

### **Joy robbers (the Judaizers)--Phil. 3:1-4**

1. Who are the "dogs", the "evil workers", the "false circumcision"? Why does Paul use these terms to describe them?
2. How does Paul describe the church in v. 3?
3. Paul describes those who "put confidence in the flesh". In what things did they put their confidence?

### **The joy of knowing Christ--Phil. 3:4b-11**

1. On what basis could Paul have put confidence in the flesh that he was righteous?
2. What does Paul say about all these things? (v. 7-8)
3. On what basis did Paul now have the assurance that he was right with God? (v. 9).
4. What blessings did Paul enjoy as the result of knowing Christ? (v. 10-11)

### **The joy of spiritual growth--Phil. 3:12-21**

1. Did Paul consider himself to have already reached the goal for which Christ laid hold of (saved) saved him?

2. What did Paul say he did in order to obtain this goal?
3. What command did Paul give to those who were "perfect"? What did Paul urge the imperfect (those with a different attitude) to do? (v. 15-16)
4. Did Paul regard himself and others like him as a pattern for other Christians to follow?
5. Describe the walk of those Paul calls enemies of the cross? (v. 18-19)
6. The Christian's citizenship is where? What will the Savior do for us when he returns?