

***Thinking Correctly about Earthly Achievements***  
***Philippians 3:4-16***

***Big Idea: Perfect identity is only found in knowing Jesus Christ.***

- 3:1-3            Paul's warning concerning the Judaizers  
**3:4-16**        **Paul's mindset concerning earthly achievements**  
3:17-4:1       Paul's warning concerning Antinomianism

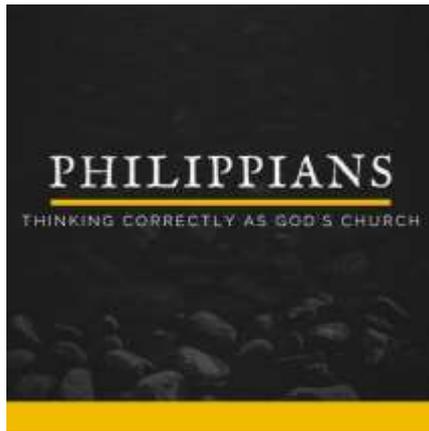
**I. Paul lists the **earthly** achievements in which he **used to** find his identity. (3:4-6)**

- He used to find identity in his family lineage & upbringing.
- He used to find identity in his education & status.
- He used to find identity in his religious zeal & fervor.
- He used to find identity in his perception of righteousness.

***Paul used to find his identity in his own efforts  
by dwelling on the past.***

**II. Paul lists the **spiritual** blessings in which he **presently** embraced his identity. (3:7-10)**

- Being in Christ gave him true identity and purpose.
- Being in Christ made Paul's earthly achievements appear empty and unfulfilling.



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- Being in Christ gave him true identity and purpose.
- Being in Christ made Paul's earthly achievements appear empty and unfulfilling.

- Being in Christ changed everything for Paul, including his passions and affections.
- Being in Christ meant that all of Paul's effort and energy in obeying God's call was undeniably worthwhile!

***Knowing Jesus Christ and being found in Him surpasses all earthly achievements and gives us the most perfect identity and the most fulfilling confidence.***

### **III. Paul lists the spiritual **goals** that propelled him forward into the **future**. (3:11-16)**

- He knew that he had not "arrived" yet spiritually. God was still in the process of changing and molding him to be like Jesus.
- He knew that the greatest joys were still awaiting him, so he refused to live in the past.
- He knew that living confidently in the present required him to focus on the future glories of eternal life.
- He knew that in the end, receiving Jesus Christ's approval was the only thing that mattered.

***To live this way requires that we have a correct mindset about earthly achievements and eternity.***

## **Application**

1. God does not want us to live emptily in the past.
2. God does not want us to live emptily in the present.
3. God wants us to live confidently in the present with a view towards the future. We can live this way if we are *in Christ*.

**Perfect identity is only found in knowing Jesus Christ. Only Jesus can fix our identity problem.**

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