

# Letters

FROM PRISON

EXPLORING THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

## Philippians 3:1-11 TPT

<sup>1</sup> My beloved ones, don't ever limit your joy or fail to rejoice in the wonderful experience of knowing our Lord Jesus! I don't mind repeating what I've already written you because it protects you –  
<sup>2</sup> beware of those religious hypocrites who teach that you should be circumcised to please God. <sup>3</sup> For we have already experienced “heart-circumcision,” and we worship God in the power and freedom of the Holy Spirit, not in laws and religious duties. We are those who boast in what Jesus Christ has done, and not in what we can accomplish in our own strength. <sup>4</sup> It's true that I once relied on all that I had become. I had a reason to boast and impress people with my accomplishments - more than others - for my pedigree was impeccable.

## Philippians 3:1-11 TPT

<sup>5</sup> I was born a true Hebrew of the heritage of Israel as the son of a Jewish man from the tribe of Benjamin. I was circumcised eight days after my birth and was raised in the strict tradition of Orthodox Judaism, living a separated and devout life as a Pharisee. <sup>6</sup> And concerning the righteousness of the Torah, no one surpassed me; I was without a peer. Furthermore, as a fiery defender of the truth, I persecuted the messianic believers with religious zeal. <sup>7</sup> Yet all of the accomplishments that I once took credit for, I've now forsaken them and I regard it all as nothing compared to the delight of experiencing Jesus Christ as my Lord! <sup>8</sup> To truly know him meant letting go of everything from my past and throwing all my boasting on the garbage heap.

## Philippians 3:1-11 TPT

It's all like a pile of manure to me now, so that I may be enriched in the reality of knowing Jesus Christ and embrace him as Lord in all of his greatness. <sup>9</sup> My passion is to be consumed with him and not cling to my own "righteousness" based in keeping the written Law. My only "righteousness" will be his, based on the faithfulness of Jesus Christ - the very righteousness that comes from God. <sup>10</sup> And I continually long to know the wonders of Jesus and to experience the overflowing power of his resurrection working in me. I will be one with him in his sufferings and become like him in his death. <sup>11</sup> Only then will I be able to experience complete oneness with him in his resurrection from the realm of death.

## Hebrews 10:35-39 NIV

<sup>35</sup> So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

<sup>36</sup> You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. <sup>37</sup> For, “In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.” <sup>38</sup> And, “But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.” <sup>39</sup> But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

## 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 TPT

<sup>4</sup> We carry this confidence in our hearts because of our union with Christ before God. <sup>5</sup> Yet we don't see ourselves as capable enough to do anything in our own strength, for our true competence flows from God's empowering presence. <sup>6</sup> He alone makes us adequate ministers who are focused on an entirely new covenant. Our ministry is not based on the letter of the law but through the power of the Spirit. The letter of the law kills, but the Spirit pours out life.

## Philippians 3:12-14 NIV

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

## Job 17:9 NLT

<sup>9</sup> The righteous keep moving forward, and those with clean hands become stronger and stronger.