



DIGGING IN

Warning:

| Paul's Background | Gaining Christ |
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TAKING IT INWARD— WHAT ARE YOU RELYING ON?

Reasons I Could Put Confidence in the Flesh:

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TAKING IT INWARD— WHAT ARE YOU RELYING ON?

Reasons I Could Put Confidence in the Flesh:

TAKING IT INWARD—PURSUING CHRIST

Think for a minute about your own quest to know Christ. Look at the phrases below, and circle the ones that best describe how you're pursuing Christ right now.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Casually observing</i> | <i>Commit-fail, commit-fail</i> |
| <i>Mildly involved</i> | <i>Pressing on</i> |
| <i>Apathetic</i> | <i>Straining toward</i> |
| <i>Going through the motions</i> | <i>Taking hold</i> |
| <i>Busy</i> | |

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

A Prayer to Christ:

Less of me. More of You.

All of you. None of Me.

What I Learned about Following Christ:

TAKING IT INWARD—PURSUING CHRIST

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What I Learned about Following Christ:



Philippians 3

- ¹ Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.
- ² Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh.
- ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—
- ⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:
- ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;
- ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.
- ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.
- ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ
- ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.
- ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,
- ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.
- ¹² 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.
- ¹³ 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,
- ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
- ¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

- ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.
- ¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.
- ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.
- ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
- ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.