

## Philippians 10-07-16b

Let's pick up our study now in Philippians chapter 3, and we're looking at it via Romans chapter 8, and we're really just now getting to the good part, and hopefully it will be as interesting to you as it has been to me to study. But when you think about Philippians, everything that we've learned in it so far, Paul is saying, look, there's a different way to live your life. Anybody can be locked up in jail and be depressed, but here's the Apostle Paul, and he's rejoicing.

He has a perspective, and he can see God's hand working in and through his circumstances to further the gospel and to promote the Lord Jesus Christ and to bless people in his periphery, and he says, look, if this is the way that God can use me, I'm happy to be poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice of your faith. If God can use me in that way to anoint and to decorate the offering of your faith, that's fine with me. And he's willing.

He would rather depart and go be with the Lord, but he says, I know that it's needful. I think God's going to leave me around a while longer because it's needful for you, and he is a reflection of that attitude. Now here's my question.

This is the question we want to try to answer in this second session, because we've talked about this contrast in the first session tonight between living in the flesh and by means of the flesh and walking in the flesh and the spirit. And it's a fine-sounding theological, spiritual, biblical type of thing, but you know that we're going to fold up our Bibles and get in our cars or go in the other room if you live here. We're going to go back to regular life, right? And once the Bibles are closed and you're not hearing the lovely beatific monotone of my voice, you say, well, what do you mean living in the flesh versus living in the spirit? I'm not really sure I get a lot of traction out of that when I'm actually having to get through my day and do my stuff.

So the question we want to answer in this second session is, what do these passages say that help us get a practical grip on having no confidence in the flesh, not walking by means of the flesh, but walking by means of the spirit? I know, you know, being fellowship, the Holy Spirit should lead and guide and impress the truth in your heart, but really, really now, I'm a believer. How is my life going to be substantially materially different, say, tomorrow, tomorrow's Saturday? Let's all stop for a minute and think about our Saturday schedule. Now that I've mentioned it, you're going to think about it anyway.

So I give you permission now. Think about Saturday. Think about tomorrow.

What's on your agenda? What's on my agenda? Oh, yeah, right. I've got several things I need to do. And so do you.

Okay, so is there going to be any difference if we manage to get through tomorrow and our list of joys and tribulations and tasks, is it going to be any different? Is there a different outcome when the sun goes down tomorrow if we walk in the flesh or if we walk in the spirit? What will the

difference be? This is the question we want to answer, and I'm not just going to answer it at the beginning or everybody will fall asleep. So I'm going to introduce the question. We're going to look at the scripture and see this is inductive versus deductive.

I'm going to induce you to stay with me until we get to the answer here. So we're still in Romans chapter 8, and you remember this great, great statement by Paul in verse 2, the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. I am no longer defaulting.

I am no longer required to operate in only fleshly tools. I am not stuck with trying to get my things done like any unbeliever, like any uninformed believer who just doesn't know anything of the plan of God, has never bothered to crack a Bible or study anything, or has three points in a prayer. We have something, and it is this law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

And this is different than the law of sin and death. Spirit is different than flesh. Supernatural is different than natural.

Divine is different than mundane. Right. But we're still looking for this, so what? What about tomorrow? What about my lawn? What about my car? What about my cleanup efforts? What about my task list? What about the stuff I've got to get done? What about my interactions with people? What about the places I have to go? What about the money I have to spend? What about the decisions I'm going to make? What about that? Does this really impinge? Aren't I going to get the same things done? And isn't this just kind of a nice to fit into the cracks, if it will, sort of a pie in the sky spiritual diversion? But I'm really going to actually be living life.

I don't really see how this is going to infiltrate what I do tomorrow and the next day and the next. Well, it should. It has to.

If it doesn't, we're wasting our time. You can't do the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus in the cracks. You can't do it once in a while.

You can't do it just on Bible class hours. It has to be something that is, you know, you've seen people that are on the verge of death and, you know, well, BP is dropping, charge the paddles, you know, rub the gel on clear and, you know, they get a little couple of spikes on the on the monitor there and then it flatlines. They're like clear, you know, raise the whatever it is they raise.

What is that voltage they turn up? What do they turn up? Why do they why do they crank it up? It's amps or something. Yeah, Jules, they turn the knob up. They try it on three.

If you don't come back, they turn it to five. What is it? There you go. So all I'm saying is this.

You did not want your spiritual life. You did not want your spiritual life laying on the table waiting for the next zap. OK, I've been flatlined all week.

Here's Bible class clear. Right. That's no way to live your spiritual life.

It's not the way to live. We are missing it. You be quiet now.

We've already had question and response. That's all you get. If I let you start, I'll never get another word in edgeways.

You can't have your spiritual life just momentarily jolted once or twice a week or in times of crisis. By the way, not that I'm plugging the Creswell sermon for Sunday night, but the title of it is emergency religion. Foxhole religion.

It's a great sermon and it's one of these, you know, do you have real religion if it only emerges in a crisis? Oh, the chips are down. I believe I better pray. Oh, I'm about to die.

Maybe I'll see if I can get saved. Emergency religion is no religion. Emergency spiritual life in Christ is not spiritual life.

We can't just keep zapping ourselves, you know, at the point of death. And, you know, do you want to spend all your life on that table? No. So what are we talking about here? Well, look at look at Romans chapter 8. This law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, whatever that is, whatever that winds up being in practical terms, frees us from the law of sin and death.

You know what it means? Whatever it is, however it works, I don't have to constantly look stuff up chapter and verse in the law code. I don't have to get the city ordinances and go to section six, subparagraph 12 point subpoint B to find out whether or not I can put a storage shed in my side yard if it's such and such a height and such and such a width. And is it permanent or is it not? And how high is the fence and how far from the border? And, you know, does it impinge on the alley? And I don't have to look all that stuff up.

I have been set free from that. We are free from the handwriting of ordinances, which was against us. All that did was show every time we broke them that we don't have the spirit of life.

You know what the law was? The law was an objective measure of behavior. And every time those behaviors fell short, it demonstrated the lack of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus. You can't look inside to see if your heart is actually beating.

We get that information indirectly by listening to a stethoscope, by monitoring a, you know, the machine. That's how we find out. And the law monitored indirectly what the spiritual status was.

And you could generally abide by the Ten Commandments. You could get by most of those laws and ordinances if you had a healthy faith. It wasn't foolproof.

David was one of the most advanced believers. And he murdered a guy and committed adultery and did some bad things as a father and whatnot. But generally speaking, over time, you could tell if someone kept the law that they had no problems keeping the law, weren't constantly bumping into it, that they had a healthy spiritual life.

It was it was an external measure and the constant breaking of the law. And if you offend in even one part, it shows that you don't actually have that life. What the law could not do because it was weak through the flesh.

Anything that depends on the flesh isn't going to work. Your resolve to be better isn't going to work. Getting together as a group and trying to pool your resolve and pool your guilt isn't going to work.

Well, I don't want to have to go to the group and admit that I, you know, fell off the wagon here, so I better be good. Somebody's looking. I better, you know, not run this stop sign.

You know, this is kind of, you know, do you stop at the stop sign at 2 a.m.? Not a soul in sight. Headlights would tell you if somebody was even within a mile of the intersection. Nobody's there.

So do you just kind of roll through the stop sign? I mean, you can. Nobody's going to die. But on principle, here's the thing, and you can think about it this way.

Now, I'm not going to say that I'm Lily White in this regard, but this is the principle. If you run the stop sign at 2 a.m., the issue is not it's OK because nobody was endangered. The issue is if you look at it with spiritual eyes, I am now a stop sign runner.

I have damaged my own integrity by what I have done. It doesn't matter if there's a consequence. Consequences aren't the issue.

Who I am and what I respect and how I discipline myself to be obedient, and I exercise that even in trivial ways, that's the issue. And if I rationalize in small things, sooner or later, I'm going to start rationalizing in large ways. I don't want to be a rationalizer.

Now, I don't want to be a rigid legalist either. There's a time to be flexible. But you see my point.

The issue is who am I? Why do I do what I do? There is a time to bend the rules. Jesus didn't care if his disciples ate with unwashed hands and reaped wheat out of the field on the Sabbath. Technically, you could press a point from the law that that was wrong.

Jesus said, look, there is a time to be inflexible about essentials. There's a time to be flexible about non-essentials. But listen, there's also a time to be inflexible about non-essentials.

For example, if you are training your children, and it may not matter that there are seven peas left on their plate, who cares? Maybe if you dished it differently, those seven peas wouldn't be there, but they're there now. And the child has been instructed to clean up their plate. And those seven peas are now an issue, not because it's critically important that the child get exactly that number of peas down their throat, but because there is a principle of obedience.

There is a principle of submission. There is a principle of no rebellion. You do not start pitting

your will against mine over these vegetables.

And it becomes an issue that's greater than the actual material circumstances involved. There is a time. The Apostle Paul knew this.

You remember, with Timothy and with Titus, they are accompanying Paul. Paul is going in with Jewish community. One time he circumcises the guy, and the other time he doesn't.

Do you remember which is which? Which one got circumcised? Timothy. Which one did not get circumcised? Titus. Same situation.

Why didn't he do the same thing? Because we are not in the law of sin and death. It's the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, and there is discernment. There is a time to make an issue.

And that spirit of life gives us wisdom and gives us insight and gives us perception. This isn't something you can can. It isn't something you can formulate.

It isn't something you can codify or make policy out of. The reason it's called the spirit of life, it's a living thing. It moves.

It's flexible. That's why the Word of God is alive and powerful. The Word of God is not a dead code.

It's not a carved in granite do-and-don't system. The Word of God is living. It's active.

It's powerful. It flexes. It moves.

It gets large. It gets small. It deals with major things.

It deals with minor things. It is live. It is muscular.

It is flexible. It is powerful. Because it's living, not a dead system.

And why does the Son come in the likeness of sinful flesh on account of sin? To condemn sin in the flesh. What does the Scripture say about how our sins were paid for? Were you taught, if I gave you a quiz right now and said, What sacrifice paid for our sins? Would you say it was Christ's spiritual death on the cross? When Adam and Eve sinned, they didn't drop dead. They didn't take a bite and cardiac arrest.

How did they die? Did they die spiritually? That's what we're generally taught. And Jesus bore our sins on the cross? And was it His spiritual death that paid for all the sins of the world? And yet the Bible says, Christ bore our sins in His own body on the tree. He bore them in His body.

He was wounded for our iniquities. He was bruised for our transgressions. I always get those mixed up unless I quote the verse verbatim.

But He was wounded and bruised for our iniquities and transgressions, right? What part of you gets wounded and bruised? The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. And how does the verse end? And by His stripes we are healed. What do you put stripes on? A spirit or a body? What does Paul say here? Sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin He condemned sin in the flesh.

The incarnation is huge. The death of Christ as a human being is central. He didn't come as an angel.

There wasn't an angel up on the cross. To which of the angels said He at any time, Hebrews chapter 1, sit thou at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool. He was not an angel.

He was humanity and it was essential to His work on the cross that He bear our sins in the flesh and pay the penalty in the flesh. I'm not saying there wasn't a spiritual component, but I'm saying don't leave out the flesh component. It's right here.

For those who live according to the flesh, set their minds on the things of the flesh. We can't be trapped in the thinking of the world. This is part of what we talked about in the last couple of weeks with regard to psychology.

Christian psychology, you can't put a thin foil wrapper on psychology and call it Christian psychology. Remember those chocolate Easter bunnies you used to get and they'd wrap them in that foil? There'd be this great big bunny and you'd unwrap it and there's this chocolate rabbit and if you bite any part of him he's hollow inside. It's like a false promise.

You know, you think, wow, look at all this chocolate. You bite it and there's largely air inside. Well, this is what I think of Christian psychology.

You can't do anything with the wrapper other than be sure you get it all off if you have any fillings. But you bite into it and it's just a false promise. There's a little bit of sweetness on the outside, but there's no substance there.

You eat the whole thing, it'll make you sick. It's way too much chocolate for any normal American child. And those who live according to the flesh, set their minds on the things of the flesh.

And if we go to the same things the world goes to, we're living according to the flesh. We're setting our mind on the things of the flesh. Oh, get in a group.

This poor lady that called up this afternoon on the radio on KCBI was sobbing from the word go. I've lost my children. I've lost my husband.

I've lost this. I've lost that. They won't talk to me.

Now I've got a grandchild that I can't see. My daughter won't let me anywhere near. I'm this, I'm that.

And just really a shipwreck of a life described in 30 seconds. I mean, it's woeful. It's pitiable.

I genuinely feel sorry for somebody that's that miserable and could hardly even speak of it. And so these guys were giving a response. She said, what do I do? I've talked to my pastor.

He can't help. And so one of the suggestions was, well, get in a group. I'm sorry, but this is not the kind of problem that getting in a group is going to help.

You may feel better in a group, but feeling better is not the point. Feeling better is not the point. And as long as feeling better is the point, you're never going to get well.

You're going to wallow in the mire because you're living according to the flesh. The flesh wants to feel good. That's why it talks about the lusts of the flesh.

That's the desire. What does the flesh want? Why is it hard to stop eating chocolate? Why is it hard to cut back your portions? Why is it hard to go on a diet? Because the flesh wants to feel good. My tummy wants to feel full.

My tongue wants to be stimulated with the taste of black cherry cobbler ice cream or blackberry cobbler ice cream or peach cobbler ice cream, which for some reason, Bluebell refuses to make again. It was the best ice cream they ever made. I am completely in its power.

You could get me to do anything by dangling a bucket of that in front of me. That is the best ice cream ever made. If you ever see peach cobbler ice cream from Bluebell, let me know.

They say on their website, they rotate it. Well, I digress. But they haven't brought that one back.

And it's been like, what, 10 years? I'm very irritated with Bluebell because my flesh craves that particular flavor of ice cream. The flesh wants to be soothed. It wants to be comforted.

It wants to feel good. This is the root of all kinds of problems. All kinds of problems.

I don't have to go into details. You know what I'm talking about. The flesh has cravings.

The flesh wants to feel good and it drives us into all kinds of misery. So how are we freed of that? Now, how about tomorrow? Back to my question. How are we going to do this live in the spirit thing? Well, what part of tomorrow is going to appeal to the flesh? Am I going to do what I do tomorrow because I'm going to take pride in being able to say, you know what? I had five things on my list.

I got all five things done. Yep, that's right. I'm organized.

I'm consistent. I can manage my time and my efforts. I got it all done.

Pat myself on the back. Who can I tell? Who can I show? Hey, come look at this. Look what I did.

Look at my fuel pump all installed. Look at my, by the way. Well, nevermind.

My VW works even better than it did before. Feel free to stop by and I'll show you because I'm extremely gratified by it. It makes my flesh feel good after sitting out there sweating and swatting mosquitoes to get that stuff all done.

But there is a natural appeal. We want to feel like we have accomplished something. Somebody does something for us, we've got to try to figure out a way to do something back because we want to feel justified.

We have to be careful of it. Some of that is healthy. You don't want to just lay around letting people do stuff for you and not reciprocate.

But in the flesh, if you live by the flesh, if you live according to the flesh, if you set your mind on the things of the flesh, it's death. That doesn't mean your mind never touches on them. It doesn't mean you don't live in the realm of reality.

But if you set your mind on it, if you build your castles on it, if this is what you're depending on, it's a matter of emphasis. It's a matter of balance. The hardest thing to deal with is twisted truth.

And there is a healthy sense of accomplishment when you do a thing well. Well done, good and faithful servant. Do you want to hear those words? I do.

Well, that's my efforts. God's not saying, well done, empty vessel that I filled and I really like the reflection of what I poured into you. God is going to reward believers for what we do.

We do it. It's not the Calvinist, I just laid there like a puppet until God pulled the strings and now God's pleased with the performance. We do things and God says, well done, you servant.

You did that well. It's legitimate, but we have to be so careful because there is a line we cross. There is a balance that tips and suddenly we are doing it for that approbation, for that feeling of accomplishment instead of enjoying that as a byproduct.

And this is why the spirit of life has to be there. How do you know the difference? How do you know when a little pride is too much pride? How do you know when a little gratification is too much gratification? How do you know when you've shifted from appreciating blessings in the flesh to craving the blessings of the flesh? God can bless us with material things and we start feeling guilty. Well, is that guilt justified or not? It depends.

It just depends. This is where you can't make a set of rules. Well, if your personal net worth

exceeds a certain amount, you have now become carnal.

We can't make a rule like that. Well, if you think about a certain blessing that you have in the material realm or a certain relationship that you have in the realm of people and so on, if you think about that more than 23 minutes a day, you have become fleshly. There is no rule.

You can't make a law for that. So what is the spirit of life in Christ Jesus? Look at what Paul says here. Those who live according to the flesh.

Verse 5, Romans 8. Those who live according to the flesh. This is the standard of measure now. I say this is good because I benefit.

I feel good. That's my standard. Cata, according to.

This is my ruler. I don't feel good. That was a bad deal.

I feel good. That was a good deal. Not, well, I may not feel good, but I know that was right.

I know that was right based on what I know from the word of God. Or I may feel great, but that was wrong. You can win an argument and feel great and be just as wrong as you can be.

Right? There are people who get into realms of gratification, whether it's food, whether it's something illicit on the Internet, whether it is putting somebody down, whether it is gaining some unfair advantage, whether it is accomplishing whatever it might be. And it winds up being wrong because it's not being measured by. This is the key.

If there's one thing to remember out of this whole second lesson, how do you know if you're in the flesh or in the spirit? What's your ruler? Do you enjoy this? Are you gratified by this? Are you Calcutta? Oh, my celebrating this because on the divine scale in the spiritual realm, in the realm of, I know that this came from God, the father, or I know this is pleasing in God's sight. Or, boy, that just feels great. I really enjoy this.

I am just having a great time. And God never enters into it. Spiritual life, spiritual identity, the things of Christ, the mind of Christ, interests of others don't even enter into the picture.

I just like this because, man, that just is stimulating. I really, really think that that is the best ice cream on God's green earth. Not good enough.

And by the way, even something as silly as ice cream, if I look at myself and my body is changing shape and I'm being a bad steward, then that can become something bad. It can become something wrong. I can joke about it, but listen, if I'm endangering my health, if I'm shortening my life and thereby my opportunities to fulfill my responsibilities to my family and to my place of work and before the Lord, to not check out early because I was careless with my health, that becomes an issue.

Even something as silly as what I have for dessert or how much I have, whether or not I go back for seconds. Is there divine power in something as seemingly mundane as sticking to a diet? There can be if you view it in the light of spiritual life. It's a stewardship.

You are not your own. You are bought with a price. It's like God giving you a company car.

Our body is like the company car. Are you going to race that thing? Are you going to drive it in a dangerous manner? Are you going to park it carelessly? Are you going to run its tires down and fail to keep the oil changed? Fail to do maintenance on it just because you can? How do you view it? This is what kind of decision we can make tomorrow. Why am I doing what I do? What is the yardstick I'm going to use to measure? Those who live according to the flesh.

My yardstick is, did I get my list checked off? My yardstick is, do I feel good about it? My yardstick is, were other people impressed by it? My yardstick is, something in the flesh. That's living according to the flesh. Set their minds on the things of the flesh.

Verse 5, but those who live according to the spirit, who measure by the spirit. What does the spirit have to say? If I get into prayer mode, if I'm communing with God, exchanging information with God, I'm speaking to Him in prayer, He's speaking to me through the Spirit and the Word, now how does this thing look? How does it fit into my priorities? Yes, I can spend all day working on the car, but what if I haven't spent any time with my family? What if I haven't spent any quality time with my wife or with my kids, with my husband, with my family, whatever it may be? Is this thing pushing other things out of the way? What is the spiritual measure? It might be very gratifying, I've been wanting to get this garage cleaned out for 17 weeks, and by golly, today I'm going to do it. What if that is at the expense of something more important? What are you measuring by? Sure feels good to get that thing checked off, or what does the spirit say? Where are my accountabilities, my responsibilities before the Lord? This is what we have to consciously decide to do.

How do you measure? What is your kata? K-A-T-A, according to. What is it? How do you measure? And if we could remember to use the according to the spirit yardstick, now we are transforming the things that we do into divine currency, into treasure in heaven, into inheritance, into larger surface area reflecting the glory of God, into well done, thou good and faithful servant, because you were about the Father's business. First recorded words of Jesus, do you not know that I must be about my Father's business? You want to put something on your refrigerator magnet, scratch off that prayer of Jabez and put, I must be about my Father's business.

That's living according to the spirit. To be carnally minded, verse 6, is death. This is not physical death.

It's not spiritual death. This is operational death. This is fruitlessness.

This is the dead branch that is broken off and gathered in bundles and burned. To be spiritually

mindful is life and peace. We think we're going to get peace by getting a lot of boxes checked off on our personal list of goals and priorities.

This life gives us peace, peace that passes understanding. Because the carnal mind, verse 7, is enemyship against God, it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Hebrews 11, 6, without faith it is impossible to please Him. He that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

If you're motivated by a discipleship group or a mentor or a prayer book, if you're motivated by the results you hope to achieve, you cannot please God. Even if your goal is good. I want to stop being bad and I want to start being good.

I want to stop being a miserable excuse and start being a wonderful dynamic example. Sorry. If you're doing it in the flesh or if you're doing it by means of the flesh, it cannot please God.

I don't care how noble the goal sounds. Verse 9, now here's the answer to our question. What was the question at the beginning of the class? How do we get this done in real terms? Live in the spirit, not in the flesh.

How do we do it? You are not in the flesh but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. You say, wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute. I've got my categorical doctrines down.

Indwelling in the Spirit takes place at the point of salvation. I'm saved. I'm indwelt.

So, no problem. I'm set. There is dwelling and there is dwelling.

I'll give you an example. If you ever want to buy a house, there are two different kinds of mortgages you can get. You can get a mortgage that's based on the fact that this house is going to be your residence and you have all kinds of options.

FHA will help you. VA will help you if you qualify for that. Loans, interest rates that are set.

You've got all kinds of things when you say, I am going to live there. If you want to buy a house and you're not going to live there, everything changes. FHA is not going to help you.

VA is not going to help you. And your interest rates are going to be higher and your down payment is going to have to be something like 30%. All based on the fact that you're not actually going to live there.

Very much more difficult and much more costly to buy a house that you're not going to live in. So, what do people do? People say, well, you know what? I will move there temporarily. I'll move

there just long enough to get the loan based on my primary residence and then I'll move out and rent it out or something.

I'll fudge the system. I'll act like I'm going to live there, but I'm really not. Well, heaven help you if the government or the bank finds out that you have defrauded them by making that kind of false representation.

They will come and get you for that. And your balance will become due and payable plus penalties, plus felonies, plus all kinds of stuff if you've got a federal loan guarantee involved. You are not in the flesh but in the spirit.

If indeed the spirit of God dwells in you, this means actually dwells, dwells effectively, dwells in a meaningful way. Not just a superficial, for the purposes of paperwork way. You can be saved and you can have the quote, unquote, indwelling of the spirit, but if you pay no attention, if he is effectively not there because you don't listen, you don't cultivate, you do nothing about your unconfessed sins, you don't feed yourself the truth, that indwelling is basically on paper.

It has no reality. This dwells indeed. It's like Romans 8, 28 and 29.

All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose. Well, technically everybody is called. Technically all believers are called, but are you really the called? And here, does the spirit of God really dwell in you? Does his dwelling make a difference? Are you aware of it? Does it affect you? Do you avail yourself of his presence? You are not in the flesh but in the spirit, if indeed, and in English we ought to move to the indeed to the end.

If the spirit of God dwells in you indeed, in an effective real way. If anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he is not his. And this isn't so much talking about salvation as it's talking about are you effectively living out your salvation? Are you working out your salvation with fear and trembling? Are you availing yourself of what God provided? If you're not, it is as though it isn't there.

It is as though you don't have it. If you don't use it, it's as though you don't have it. If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, and the spirit is life because of righteousness.

We have died with Christ. Romans chapter 6. But if the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead... Now, this is the payoff, and this is what we'll get into next week because we're out of time tonight. But look at this last thing.

Where did we go in Philippians chapter 3 when Paul says, I've got more to boast about in the flesh than anybody, but I count all of that stuff as scubala, as loss, that I may gain Christ, that I may know him and what? The power of his resurrection. And then he goes on to say, the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, if by any means I may attain to the

resurrection. Every time you get into this spirit of life in Christ Jesus versus living in the flesh, Paul goes to the resurrection.

He goes to the death and burial and resurrection of Christ. That's what he does in Philippians chapter 3. That's what he does right here. If the spirit of him... This is 8.11 of Romans.

If the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you... Why does he go to that aspect of the Holy Spirit? He raised Jesus Christ from the dead. If you think about it, it's kind of an odd thing. Golgotha and the tomb and the garden and the rolled away stone.

What's that got to do with getting through my day tomorrow with the spirit of life in Christ Jesus? If the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his spirit who dwells in you. Cultivate the ministry of the Holy Spirit and it transforms the daily tasks and chores of life. Live in the light of spiritual truth.

We have to be aware. He's there regardless. It's our awareness.

If he dwells in us in an effective, in an indeed way, it changes everything. So what are we going to do tomorrow? We're going to do the same things regardless. I have two different ways to live tomorrow.

I can get the very same things done. And at the end of the day tomorrow, when I'm eating my supper and getting ready to retire, I can look back over the day and I will have lived it one of two ways. I was either aware of the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit, the spirit that raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and who can enliven my life, my tasks, my circumstances, my doings, in the same way that he raised the dead human body of the Lord Jesus back to supernatural life, he can do the same to my day, to my mortal life.

The Spirit of God can do that if he dwells in me indeed. It's up to me whether or not he dwells in me indeed. I've already been saved and he dwells in me in fact, on paper.

But does he dwell in me indeed? Do I use his measure? Do I look at what I'm doing through his eyes or not? All it is is a choice. I don't have to get anything, I don't have to go anywhere, I don't have to meet with a group, I don't have to attain to anything, I don't have to climb a mountain, I don't have to ascend the ladder to heaven, I don't have to go to the depths of Sheol. All I have to do is say, for this next hour, this next thing that I'm going to tackle, I want to measure this in my conversations, any impingement on other people as I go through my day tomorrow, I want to measure it by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

What's God's view of this? Am I doing this in a way that pleases God, or am I doing it in a way that pleases me? Am I going to gratify myself in doing this, or am I going to do it in a way that I think is pleasing to God, given the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit? It's nothing but a

choice, it's nothing but a decision to measure by that standard. This is what changes our day from wasted time to an investment in our eternal inheritance, in our eternal future, in the plan and purpose of eternal God. It's just a matter of deciding we're going to look at it the way the Lord Jesus did, the way that the Apostle Paul is encouraging us to do it, in this Philippian letter.

It's so simple that we're in danger of missing it. But that's what he's after. He's illustrated it with himself, he's illustrated it with Timothy, he's illustrated it with Epaphroditus, who put his life on the line in the interest of others because he looked at it from a divine perspective.

Paul says, I'd love to go to heaven, but I need to be here because that's the spiritual perspective. Most importantly, right at the center, you have the Lord Jesus Christ, who did not think equality with God was something to hang on to. He emptied himself, took on the form of a servant, came in the likeness of men, being found in appearance as a man.

He humbled himself. He didn't try to gratify himself. He obeyed all the way to the death of the cross.

That's the reason God has highly exalted him. That's the reason God has given him the name that's above every name. That's the reason every knee is going to bow and every tongue is going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

That's the measuring stick. Well, it's a profound truth, and yet it is so practical and so immediate. And it can transform every single thing we do if we just remember who we are and why we're here.

If we remember to celebrate this new perspective that we have because we're believers, we can be raised above the mundane and see it from that eternal perspective, if we just will. It's just a choice. Well, we'll close here, and we will pick up in Philippians 3, verse 11 next time.

Father, thank you for the truth of your word. Thank you for the supernatural insight that it gives us into our lives and into our circumstances, the illumination that it provides of all of the provision and the blessing that you have given to us. We pray that God the Holy Spirit will enliven these truths and cause them to breathe fire into our souls, motivate us and encourage us and correct us and rebuke us where necessary so that we can lay hold of that for which we were laid hold of and that in so doing, we will live our lives as a reflection of the glory of the Lord Jesus.

We ask it in his name. Amen.