

# Philippians: Fellowship of the Gospel

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## Study 12: Christ, our Joy and Only Confidence

**READ** Philippians 3:1-3 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

1. Paul commands the church to rejoice (3:1). Ironically the themes of joy (1:4, 18; 2:2, 17; 3:1; 4:1, 4) and suffering (1:12-14, 17, 28-30; 2:30; 3:10) co-exist in Philippians. How is rejoicing in suffering both wise and safe (v. 1b) for spiritual growth, especially during times of testing (see Ps 16:11, Neh 8:10)?
2. In v. 2 Paul warns the church to look out for false teachers. Why is it important to resist legalism and false teachers? How does not resisting steal our joy?
3. Why does God use such strong words against false teachers as “dogs”, “evil doers” and “mutilators of the flesh”?
4. What can a Christian or church do to protect itself from both legalism and false teachers? (Read 2 Tim 3; Titus 1:10-16 for help)
5. The Bible calls believers to be discerning. Look up the following verses and discuss what this looks like:  
1 John 4:1

1 Kings 3:9

1 Thess 5:21

Heb 5:14

John 7:24

6. According to v. 3, what are the three distinguishing marks of a genuine Christian and what does each one mean? Note that the word “glory” is best translated “boast”.

One:

Two:

Three:

7. Think of areas of your life you find most difficult. What difference would it make to walk into them with your confidence in Christ, rather than yourself?

**NOTE:** For your next study watch and discuss the documentary, [The American Gospel](#)

**STOP AND PRAY: according to the A.C.T.S. method**

**Adoration:** Praise God for the sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice for your sins.

**Confession:** Search your heart and confess every sin committed against Christ and others.

**Thanksgiving:** Thank Christ for the gospel that completely saves and keeps.

**Supplication:** Pray that by God’s grace and a joyful persistence in His Word you might grow in wisdom and discernment, leading to godliness.