

WHITE HOT

Context

Joy is an unmistakable theme throughout Paul's letter to the Philippians. This is remarkable because it's written by a man in a prison waiting to find out if he'd live or die. Each sermon in this series unpacks how it's possible for joy to be so evident in Paul's life.

In these first nine verses of chapter three, Paul warns the Philippians to watch out for false teaching that could steal their joy in Christ. Before answering the following questions, read all of chapters one and two, and then the first nine verses of chapter three.

Questions for Study

1. How would you define "performance anxiety"? What does it mean for a person to live this way? What are some examples of how any one of us could get on this track?
2. Write out verse one in your own words. What does this tell us that Paul's about to do? Why does he say he's doing this?
3. In verse 2 Paul describes a group of men who he says the Philippians are to be on their guard against. How are the three descriptions he gives not complimentary? What does each one tell us about these men he's describing?
4. One of the descriptions in verse two is tied closely to the contrast Paul makes between these men and himself and the Philippians. Which description is it, and how is it connected?

This may take some serious study for you to answer. Galatians 5:1-12 is a helpful scripture to connect with what Paul wrote in these verses in Philippians.

5. Paul gives his 'spiritual resume' in verses 4, 5, and 6. Write out what he puts into this resume. Why would each one be something that Paul said once gave him confidence in himself? What did he once think his resume did for his relationship with God?
6. In verses 7, 8, and 9 Paul tells the Philippians why this all changed for him. Why did it change?
7. How could you use these verses to share your faith in Christ with someone who is a very good person?
8. James Proctor wrote these words in his hymn "It Is Finished"... How are they fitting words for this passage in Philippians?

*Lay your deadly doing down, down at Jesus' feet.
Stand in him, in him alone. Wondrously complete.*