



Chapter 3 Reflection Questions: Christ Our Prize - The Progress of the Christian

1. There is a lot of sorrow and pain in our world right now. How can you put into practice the command to *rejoice in the Lord* (not in people or circumstances)?
2. "Rejoicing is a safeguard because the path of disobedience begins with discontentment." Record any areas in your life that you are currently discontent with. Ask the Lord to show you how you can rejoice *in Him* instead.
3. "Legalism is the number one threat to joy." Legalism can be described as "Jesus + _____." Do you find that your confidence, whether in your salvation or in your relationship with God, has more to do with what *you* have or have not done than in what *Christ* has accomplished on the cross? If so, what can you learn from Paul's words and example in this chapter?

4. In comparison to Christ and *His* worth, Paul concluded that what was gain to him was actually nothing of importance. In what areas have you had a similar shift of perspective? Are there areas in your life that still need to undergo this shift? If so, commit these areas to prayer and ask the Lord to help you to see clearly.

5. Paul's greatest desire was to *know Christ*. Respond to Spurgeon's story of the one who longed to *know* his deliverer. Do you long to *know Jesus* more, or are you satisfied with having received your salvation? Pray that He would increase your desire to *know Him more*.

6. Record Ephesians 1:18-20. Make this *your* prayer.

7. "When I enter into the fellowship of His sufferings, I am not alone, for He is with me." Are you in a season of suffering right now? Consider and comment on what it means to know that 1) you are not alone and 2) you are being made more like Him.

8. Would you say that you are "progressing" in your Christian life? Why or why not? If not, by His grace supplied to you and His Spirit working within you, what can you begin to do differently?

9. "To forget means to no longer be influenced by or affected by something that occurred in the past." Is the past controlling your present? If so, how does learning that Paul *continually* forgot what was behind challenge and encourage you today?

10. Privilege *and* responsibility came with being a Roman citizen. You are a citizen of *heaven*. Why is it important to remember where your true home is and to whom you belong?