

A LIFE

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

OF JOY

Review: Joy – some key ingredients.

1. Joy is relational. (1:3)
2. Christian Joy is fueled by partnering with others in Christ. (1:4-5)
3. Christian Joy lives in the present ... but anticipates the future. (1:6)
4. Christian Joy is expressed in unity together in Christ. (2:1-11)

Last Week: Christian Joy is knowing what “saving grace” really means. (3:1-11)

3 *Finally, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.*

- *² Watch out for those ... who say you must be circumcised to be saved.*
- *³ For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised.*
- *We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us; we put no confidence in human effort,*

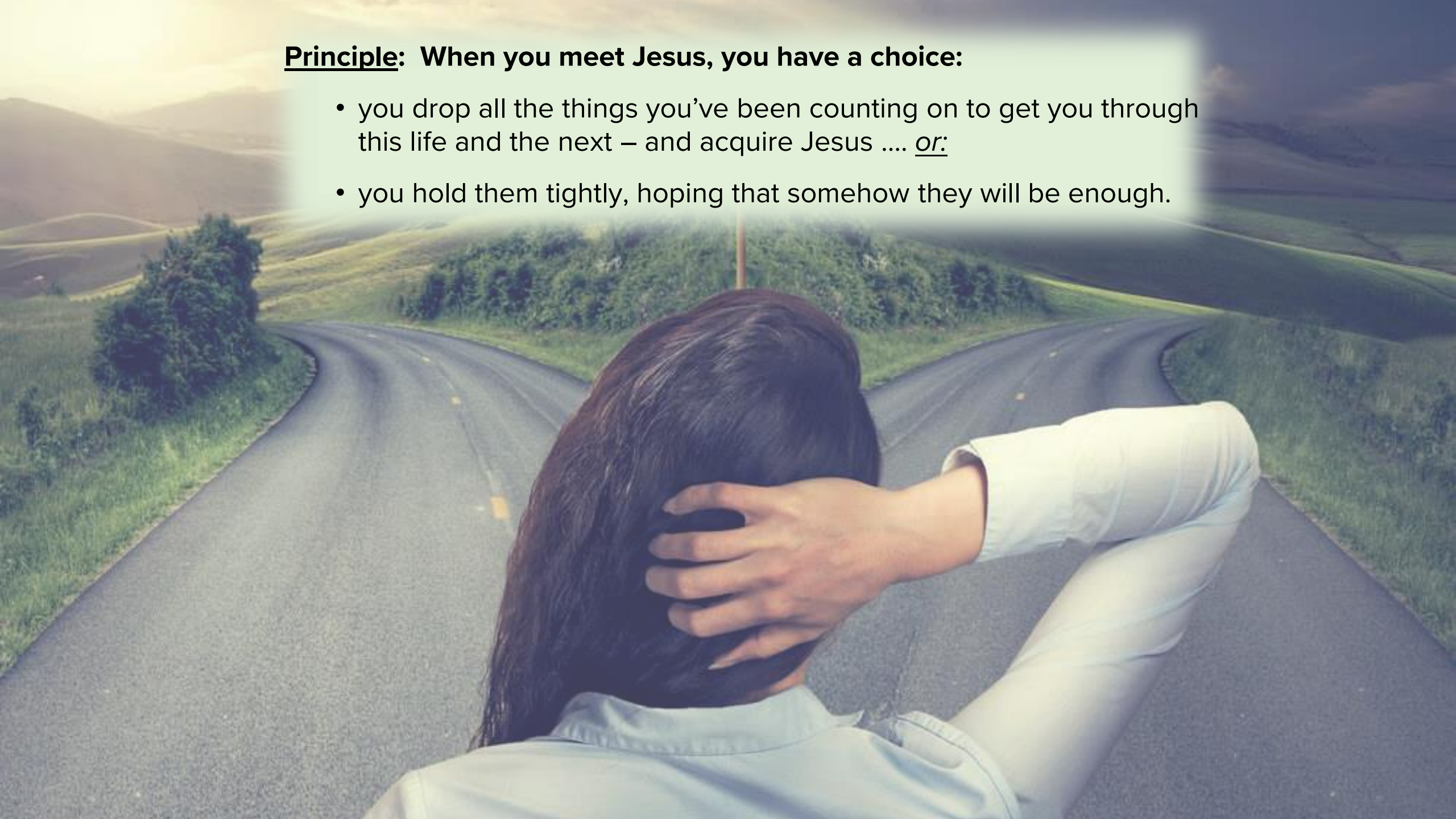
Paul lessons about God's saving grace:

1. It is **NOT** about where we come from.
 - *⁵I was circumcised when I was eight days old.*
 - *I am a pure-blooded Jew, and a member of Benjamin's tribe.*
2. It is **NOT** about how much we know.
 - *I was a member of the Pharisees ...*
3. It is **NOT** about policing the world.
 - *⁶I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church.*
4. It is **NOT** about how 'religious' we try to be.
 - *I obeyed the law without fault.*

The Point: Religious credits don't impress God
... but they can seriously deceive you.

Principle: When you meet Jesus, you have a choice:

- you drop all the things you've been counting on to get you through this life and the next – and acquire Jesus or:
- you hold them tightly, hoping that somehow they will be enough.



*⁷ I once thought these things were valuable, **but now***

- *I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.*
- *⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*
- *For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could acquire Christ ⁹ and become one with him.*
- *I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law;*

Now I understand that I become righteous through faith in Christ.

- *that God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.*

This Morning: Christian Joy is 'knowing' Christ. (3:9-14)

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.*

1. Knowing Christ demands my hunger & desire.

¹⁰ **I want to know** Christ ...

- know - Gk. - ginosko: to come to a full realization & understanding of something or someone.

⁷ *I once thought my achievements were valuable, but now I consider everything worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*

1. Knowing Christ demands my hunger & desire.

2. Knowing Christ commands experience:

*¹⁰ I want to **know Christ** ...*

a. His resurrection power ... today!

¹⁰ ... I want to know the power of the resurrection of Him.

- power - Gk. - dunamis: power, violence, might, strength.

1. Knowing Christ demands my hunger & desire.
2. Knowing Christ commands experience:

*¹⁰ I want to **know Christ** ...*

- a. His resurrection power ... today!
- b. His suffering.

¹⁰ ... I want to know the fellowship of the sufferings of him.

- fellowship - Gk. - koinania: having a share in; participating in.

God has said, "I will never fail you, and I will never abandon you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The LORD is my strength and my helper, so I have nothing to fear."

Hebrews 13

1. Knowing Christ demands my hunger & desire.

2. Knowing Christ commands experience:

¹⁰ *I want to **know Christ** ...*

a. His resurrection power ... today!

b. His suffering.

c. His death.

¹⁰ *... I want to be conformed to the death of him.*

- conformed - *Gk.* - summorphos: to assimilate; to share the same form.

1. Knowing Christ demands my hunger & desire.

2. Knowing Christ commands experience:

*¹⁰ I want to **know Christ** ...*

a. His resurrection power ... today!

b. His suffering.

c. His death.

d. His resurrection power ... for that day!

*¹¹ so that by any means, I may attain to the out-resurrection
from the dead ones.*

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Paul – 1 Thessalonians 4

1. Knowing Christ demands my hunger & desire.
2. Knowing Christ commands experience:
3. Knowing Christ requires effort ... mine, and His.

¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection.

- *But I press on to possess that perfection*
- *for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.*

- possess - Gk. - katalabo: to seize;
to forcefully take hold of.

¹² ... but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. (NASB Translation)

The Point: Jesus has laid hold of you ... and is forcefully at work.
... but He needs your cooperation in what He's doing.

⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 2:4-7