



Sermon Title: "Jesus Christ: The Victor & Our Eternal Prize"
Scripture: Philippians 3:12-4:1
Pastor Stephen Schultze
Sunday, January 1, 2023

To experience true joy in Christ we need...

- 1. A renewed **perspective** of who you are in Christ. (Phi. 3:12)**

Scriptures: James 1:2–4; Romans 12:14; Proverbs 27:21

- 2. A passionate **pursuit** of all you have in Christ. (Phi. 3:13-14)**

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 9:24–25; Philippians 3:8–10; John 15:11; 17:3, 24

*"Paul wanted to know Jesus in the truest biblical sense-personally and experientially.
And he wanted it to affect his day to day living." (James Montgomery Boice)*

- 3. A mature **mindset** towards life in Christ. (Phi. 3:15-19)**

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:9; 1 John 2:15–17; Psalm 16:4–6

- 4. A powerful **expectation** of Christ's return (Phi. 3:20-21)**

Scriptures: Philippians 1:6, 21, 23; Psalm 16:11

- 5. A renewed **commitment** to stand firm together in Christ. (Phi. 4:1)**

Scriptures: Philippians 1:27–28

Conclusion: Stand firm in **this way**: press on, strain forward, follow the example of mature believers, and look forward to Christ's return! Do not be discouraged, deceived, or distracted!

Questions to consider:

1. How did Christ make it possible for us to experience true joy?
2. What does it mean for us to "press on" or "strain forward" for the upward call of Jesus Christ? What is "our part" and God's part?"
3. How is Christ both our victor and our prize?
4. How does the example of other believers promote your joy in Christ? Who are some examples that help shape your walk in Christ?
5. What destructive appetites tempt you and rob you of joy in Christ?
6. How can the reality of our heavenly citizenship help us stand firm in the Lord?