

**Beware! Religion can keep you from knowing God!**

Philippians 3:1-15

- Avoid the dead-end called rules & rituals.
- Avoid self-deception called heritage & self-discipline.
- Take the path called following Jesus.

**Following Jesus: Grown up style never forgets...**

Philippians 3:12-16

- As long as I am alive I have ground to cover.  
Philippians 3:10-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-12
- I need a mirror more than binoculars.  
Matthew 7:3-5; Galatians 6:3-4
- The right path is seldom the easy path.  
Philippians 3:12-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Timothy 2:3
- Success isn't forever and failure isn't final.  
1 Corinthians 10:12; Revelations 12:10; 1 John 2:1-2;  
1 Timothy 1:12-16
- The best way to follow Jesus is one step at a time.  
Philippians 3:15-16; Proverbs 4:18; Philippians 2:13

Turn a message into a conversation. Consider joining with a friend to review the message and dig deeper into God's word through the following questions.

We took a look at spiritual maturity from the angle of how a spiritually mature person thinks of and perceives their spiritual life. Looking back over your notes, what did you find most challenging or interesting from this week's message?

The process of maturing can be hard work. Paul often used the analogy of athletic competition to help Christians understand their part in growing up. How do the following verses increase your understanding of what it takes to develop a spiritually mature perspective?

Philippians 3:13-14

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

2 Timothy 2:5

Hebrews 12:1-2

Now read Matthew 11:28-30. How do you see Jesus' promise to give us rest fit with this week's teaching about the "easy path"?

King David experienced both great success and extreme personal failure. He was chosen by God as king, killed Goliath and reigned as a powerful king. He also committed adultery and murder and did a poor job of parenting his rebellious children. The Psalms below give us an up-close

look at David's relationship with God during his time of great failure.

Read each one and jot down how David responded. . .

Psalm 51:1-12 /Psalm 32:1-5

What can you learn from his prayer life that will help you develop a similar perspective?

Adam and Eve had a very different response to God after they sinned. Read about it in Genesis 3:6-13. How does their response to God differ from David's?

Looking at your own past mistakes and failures, do you tend to respond to God more like David or Adam and Eve?

When children learn to walk, they typically start with a shaky step and a nearby parent's steady hand to protect and lead them. We were encouraged to focus on one step at a time as we follow Jesus.

How does that principle work out in your own spiritual journey?

As we take the next step in obedience (whatever that might be) God is along with us every step of the way. In Psalm 23, we have a vivid description of how God stays with us. Read Psalm 23 and jot down any of David's words that relate to where you are in your own journey today.