



Proclaiming Christ with Joy &  
Peace in all Circumstances

# PHILIPPIANS

By the Power of the Resurrection

# Knowing Your Spiritual Heritage and Knowing Christ

# American Ancestral Heritage (2021 Pew Research)

60% of Americans are very familiar with their ancestry

71% of Hispanic Americans feel a strong connection to their heritage

61% of Black Americans feel a strong connection to their heritage

36% of White Americans feel a strong connection to their heritage

3% of Americans were offended with the question about their ancestry

## The Heritage of Being “In Christ”

Human ancestry doesn't affect our standing (Galatians 3 & Colossians 3)

Abraham is our spiritual ancestor (John 8, Galatians 3, & Colossians 3)

King Jesus is our spiritual Brother (Psalm 22 & Hebrews 2)

Being born again results in God becoming our Father (John 1, 3, & 8)

**Philippians 3:1-3 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

<sup>2</sup> Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

<sup>3</sup> For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

*Perhaps Paul initially thought he'd be wrapping up the letter, but the Holy Spirit's direction would reveal he was at the midpoint.*

*Paul clarifies that your heart determines whether you are a true Jew or not. Our ethnic heritage has no impact on our standing before God.*

*The Judaizers were so-called Christians who enforced circumcision and law observance on Gentile believers.*

**Galatians 3:28 (NKJV)** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 3:4-6 (NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: <sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

*If genealogical heritage was important in God's eyes, Paul's standing would be greatly enhanced.*

*As a Pharisee, he meticulously followed the Jewish Law, and for a while after Jesus' resurrection, he held the Law above the Messiah and persecuted the church.*

*Not only an Israelite, but Paul was also of one of the tribes that remained faithful after the apostasy of the northern tribes.*

Though the gospel calls for obedience to Jesus, do you mistakenly think your works justify you before God?

**Philippians 3:7-9 (NIV)**<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

*Paul knew that what he had gained before Jesus was utterly worthless. To gain the whole world and forfeit your soul is a vain pursuit.*

*Our good works are like filthy rags before God. Without the righteousness of Jesus, we are doomed.*

*Do you consider knowing and serving Jesus as Lord as the highest call with the greatest value in your life? Does your life show it?*

Is your service to the Lord based on proving or earning your position, or based on your great love for the Lord Jesus?

**Philippians 3:10-11 (CSB)** <sup>10</sup> My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, <sup>11</sup> assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

*Following the lead of the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, is the best way to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. To know Him includes suffering for His sake. Are you living your faith boldly, knowing that you will share in Jesus' suffering?*

**1 Corinthians 15:19-20 (CSB)**

<sup>19</sup> If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

<sup>20</sup> But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

*Will you faithfully serve Jesus to the end? **Revelation 2:10b (LSB)**  
Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*