

SERMON NOTES:



August 30, 2026

No short 'cuts'
PHILIPPIANS 3

Pastor Mick Spann

1. Watch out for the “shortcuts”

- Some taught that Gentile Christians needed to adopt Jewish practices to become more complete Christians.
- Paul strongly rejects the idea that our religious practices make us righteous.
- Our righteousness comes from Christ, not from what we do.

2. Christ is worth more than everything

- Paul had impressive religious credentials.
- Yet compared with knowing Christ, he considered them loss and garbage.
- Knowing Jesus is worth more than:
 - Status
 - Reputation
 - Religious achievement
 - Possessions
 - Anything else we might trust in

3. Righteousness comes from Christ

- We are made right with God through Christ and His faithfulness.
- Faith is more than agreeing with facts about Jesus—it is trusting and entrusting ourselves to Him.
- We don't become righteous by becoming better religious performers.

4. The goal is to know Christ

Paul has three great desires:

1. To know Christ personally
2. To experience His resurrection power, overcoming sin and bringing new life
3. To participate in Christ's sufferings, becoming like Him in love and humility

5. Maturity can't be shortcut

- Paul admits: “I have not already arrived.”
- Christian maturity is a process, not a ritual or checklist.
- Forget what is behind and press toward what is ahead.
- There is no five-step formula for becoming a mature Christian.

6. Use practices as tools, not scorecards

- Prayer, Sabbath, fasting, Scripture, retreats and other spiritual disciplines don't earn God's favour.
- They are tools the Spirit can use to form Christ in us.
- Ask: “What will genuinely help me know Jesus, become like Jesus and live the life He has saved me for?”

7. Follow good examples

- Look to people who are following the pattern of Christ.
- Our citizenship is in heaven.
- One day Jesus will transform us completely.

The Goal

- Know Christ.
- Experience resurrection life formed within us.
- Become like Christ.

Awaiting the day He makes us complete.