

Bible Month at Home

23rd August 2026 - Bob Hamblin

Philippians Chapter 3



Our theme today is 'Press on'

Verse 1 says: **BE FULL OF JOY IN THE LORD**

Please use the pictures as subjects for thought or discussion. We start with a song based on Psalm 42.

STF 544: As the deer pants for the water

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

*(Chorus) You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.*

I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye. **[Chorus]**

You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a King.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything. **[Chorus]**

Martin J Nystrom © 1983
Restoration Music / Sovereign Music UK

Let us pray...

Think what you have to praise God for today and then speak it aloud. What attributes of God do you want to praise him for in this moment?

Then pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Read: Luke 8: 4-15

(The parable of the sower)



The seed is God's word. Consider how sometimes our hard hearts stop God's word penetrating our souls. The pecking of difficult events takes away His love from our

experience. Even some good things crowd out all thought of God. How can we be growing, loving, characters practically every day?

Read: Philippians 3: 1-9

Here Paul thinks about all his inherited status, and how it is worthless - and he had a lot to boast about.

(Paul writes...) Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for Zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 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 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.

These words of Paul are echoed in our next song:

STF 489: All I once held dear

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
all this world reveres, and wars to own,
all I once thought gain I have counted loss;
spent and worthless now, compared to this.

*Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, you're the best, you're my joy,
my righteousness, and I love you, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more,
to be found in you and known as yours.
To possess by faith what I could not earn,
all-surpassing gift of righteousness. **Knowing you...**

Oh, to know the power of your risen life,
and to know you in your sufferings.
To become like you in your death, my Lord,
so with you to live, and never die. **Knowing you**

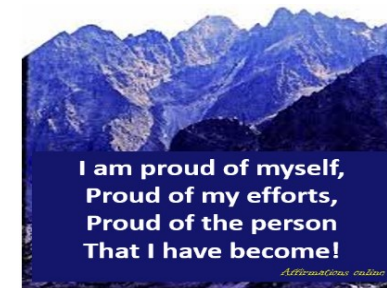
Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music.

Read: Philippians 3: 10-16

.....Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Notice how Paul's goals may be different from ours.

How do we
respond to the
earth-bound (?)
words pictured
here?
Is this us?



Let us pray.....

Our hearts are hard, O God –
Soften them with your love.
Our hands are clenched, O God –
Open them with your grace.
Our feet are planted too firmly, O God –
Invite us to dance with you.
Our lives are not our own, we know –
**Let us live and move and have
our being in you, O God. Amen.**

Paul's goals are different from our normal ones.
He is in prison but thinks freely. He would even be
prepared to die but wants to live to enable people to
see God's love....



What are our real aims, our worldly or Spiritual
bucket list?

As we sing or reflect on the song below, notice
especially the first verse which says we are called to
be disciples who spread the way of grace - as citizens
of heaven's kingdom...

STF 660: Called by Christ to be disciples (various tunes including that for Love divine)

**Called by Christ to be disciples
every day in every place.
We are not to hide as hermits
but to spread the way of grace.
Citizens of heavens kingdom,
though this world is where we live,
as we serve a faithful Master,
faithful service may we give.**

Richly varied are our pathways,
many callings we pursue:
may we use our gifts and talents
always, Lord, to honour you;
so in government or commerce,
college, hospice, farm or home,
whether volunteers or earning,
may we see your kingdom come.

Hard decisions may confront us,
urging us to compromise;
still obedience is our watchword-
make us strong and make us wise!
Secular is turned to sacred,
made a precious offering,
as our daily lives are fashioned
in submission to our King.

Martin Leckebusch © 2000 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

Read: Philippians 3: 17-21

*....many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their
destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and
their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly
things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly
await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ....*



As citizens of heaven, we are called to be doers of the
kingdom, not just to hope to be made saints, but to
be active workers in His Kingdom now.
Did you notice the crowns?

What is your
gift and
calling here
and now?



We sing...

STF 566: Take my life and let it be

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord,
to thee; take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse
of thy love; take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only,
for my King; take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite
would I withhold; take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

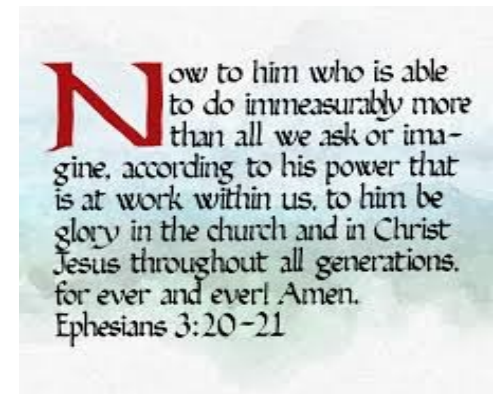
Take my will, and make it thine, it shall be
no longer mine; take my heart – it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet
its treasure-store; take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79)

Blessing

We pray for each other in these benediction words....



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