

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized, dark green leaves and branches. The leaves are elongated and pointed, with simple outlines. The branches are thin and curved, creating a natural, vine-like structure. The overall color palette is a range of green tones, from a deep forest green to a slightly lighter, muted green.

SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 1 – 3



PHILIPPIANS



**Can human beings live a life of
love in the midst of every threat
that motivates our fears?**



We are fragile creatures living in interdependent hierarchies that are always struggling with corruption.
There are threats.



What to do with fear?

- Medicalize it
- Technologically neutralize
- Remove the threat
- Exercise our need for security
- Find a deeper grounding

(If nic spends more than one minute on this slide you may throw something at him)

"6 of the 7 deadly sins are now medical conditions, and pride is a virtue."
- Somebody

Psalm 63:1 – 11

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you,
in a dry and weary land where there is no
water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and
beheld your power and your glory. Because
your love is better than life, my lips will glorify
you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in
your name I will lift up my hands...

Psalm 63:1 – 11

...My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. They who seek my life will be destroyed...

Psalm 63:1 – 11

...they will go down to the depths of the earth. They will be given over to the sword and become food for jackals. But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by God's name will praise him, while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

Hebrews 2:14 – 16

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.



**Christ is the
source of the joy
to stand firm.**

This is review:

Philippians 3:1

Finally, my brothers, **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.**



Christ is the **source**
of the **joyful** **courage**
that **overcomes**
enslaving fear



Spirituality of facing real threats:

Chapter 1: Person and Possessions

Chapter 2: Promotion and Prominence



Chapter 3: Place and Performance





1.

Christ is with us in
threats to our person
and possession



Person, property and possession

Philippians 1:
Prison, Execution,
Personal Attack...



Job

What is my life for?

- Loves his jailers
- Message is finding more people
- Other people are finding courage
- "To live is Christ and to die is gain"

Philippians 1:21

- "The joy and progress of your faith."

Philippians 1:25

Philippians 1:29 – 30

For it **has been granted to you** on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also **to suffer for him**, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.



2.

**Christ is with us in
threats to our promotion
and prominence**



Humans always create hierarchies



So who gets to be at the top, and
whose face gets stepped on?

Fighting for position creates:

1. Division
2. Selfish Ambition
3. Vain Conceit

Negative fruit:

Dishonesty, bad faith, power over truth, manipulation, extraction...

Good Fruit lost:

Destruction of love, social pleasures, concord, peace, spiritual fellowship, trust, productivity....

Christ's difference

Verse 1: Any encouragement or comfort?

Verse 5: Have the mind of Christ...

Verse 13: It is God who works in you...

Verse 17: Even if I'm being poured out...



3.

Christ is with us in
threats to our place
and performance



Justification

The right to be counted as a legitimate person who need feel no shame, and has every right and dignity of being a person.

Righteousness

The status and substance of being just and good.

"Watch out for those dogs..."

Personal Experience:

1 Timothy 1:13

"Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief."



Sensualism



Villiany



Mutilation

Christ's difference

- Everything else counts as "loss" and "refuse"
- Counting knowing Christ as "gain"
- Believing this is how we receive "righteousness"
- Following him through death into resurrection

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of the joyful courage
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enslaving fear**



**Christ is the source of
our joy to stand firm**



PHILIPPIANS