

Finding True Joy

A GRACE-FILLED LIFE FROM THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS



Week 6

Sunday 14 September 2025

Our 9:30am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Vision Spot
- Bible Reading: Philippians 3:1-14 (p. 1180)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
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If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Welcome! It's great to have you with us this morning—whether you're a regular, a newcomer, or here just exploring. At the heart of our church is a vision: we long to be **made beautiful, diverse, and large by the gracious work of Christ**. We believe that in Jesus, God gathers a people from every background to belong to him and to one another.



This morning, as we open God's Word, we'll keep being reminded of his call to follow Jesus and find our place in his story. Today at lunch time, we're running Belonging, a relaxed time designed especially for those who are newer to church. It's a great way to meet others, hear what we're about, and discover what it looks like to step into the centre of church life.

We're so glad you've joined us today—may you experience Christ's grace and the warmth of his people here.

Next Steps

Are you new? We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our next **Newish Morning Tea** on 21 September. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next **Belonging Course** which runs today from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community. Or if you'd like to learn more at another time, you can arrange a coffee with Jill. Simply reach out – she'd love to chat.

Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We confess that we have wandered from your way:
we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit
that we may live as disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

John 10:28-29

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever
Amen.

Sermon Notes

What's Really Worth Pursuing? | Philippians 3:1-14

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Ultimate confidence in your worldly legacy
2. Ultimate confidence in your religious legacy
3. Ultimate confidence in Christ

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Discuss together

"A person's legacy is measured by what they chase most passionately." How do you feel about that statement? What do you like/dislike about it?

Going deep in God's Word

Read Philippians 3:1-14

1. Try to break up the passage into smaller sections.
2. Summarise what Paul could put his ultimate confidence in (v. 4-6).
 - a. What could be a religious version of this list?
 - b. What could be a non-religious version of this list?
3. How does Paul's belief in the end goal (v. 7-14) allow him to count all his worldly/fleshly achievements as loss/garbage?

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

You may want to break into smaller groups to share and pray in light of God's Word.

Reflect on the following questions to guide your prayers.

1. What things other than Christ have you been tempted to place your ultimate righteousness and confidence in?
2. What comfort is there in the grace and sufficiency of Christ here to allow you to face the daily temptations in our world to find your ultimate worth in your achievements?

Read the Bible with us!

Using some of the questions to guide you.

1. What comfort is the Spirit giving me through this passage?
2. How is He challenging me through this passage?

Monday - [Revelation 3](#)

Tuesday - [Revelation 4](#)

Wednesday - [Revelation 5](#)

Thursday - [Revelation 6](#)

Friday - [Revelation 7](#)

Notices

Link Partner Visit

How great it was to meet our newest Link Missionaries last week. J & A visited our Alpha programs, Playtime community, GaP Groups and our Parish Council. We hope they will inspire some to reconsider their vocation and consider whether mission is God's desire for them.



We also hope they will have engaged many in prayer, financial support and care for them as we share the joy and honour of partnering with them. If you would like to be added to their supporters list let us know via the Connect Card.

Look Who's Coming to Lunch

Have you noticed how much our 930 Service has grown over the past couple of years?

Some times it can be hard to find the space to make friends with new people. To encourage us in this we are running "Look who's coming to Lunch" on Sunday 26 October.

Sign up to either host a group or attend and then in the week leading up we will let you know where you are going and who you will be with at lunch. On the day bring a plate of something to share - it'll be a great chance to eat with those you know and those you haven't got to meet yet. This is for all ages - kids included.



LOOK WHO'S
COMING TO
LUNCH



Notices

Belonging

Our 3rd Belonging event for the year is today.

If you would like to come along and enjoy lunch / afternoon tea as well as meeting other new people, while hearing about the unique joys of our church community please let Prash or Jill know (see back of the booklet for who they are).



Alpha Update

“I’ve been praying for my friend who I also asked prayer for in the Week of Prayer booklet. In God’s work, she contacted me, reconnected and came along to the International Food Feast.



Since then, she’s made it to Alpha every week and afterwards during the week she asks me all these questions! It’s been amazing to see the gospel slowly touching her heart.”

We’ve currently got two Alpha courses running at church for anyone keen to explore life, meaning and faith in Jesus. They are free and welcome to anyone.

Monday nights, 7-9pm

Tuesday mornings after Playtime, 11:30am to 12:30pm

MTS Info Session

Has God been prompting you to consider a change in vocation? Have you been keen to know more about the apprenticeships we have here at St Stephen’s? Do you want to encourage our current apprentices by hearing from them? Come along to our MTS afternoon tea on Sunday 21 September from 3-4:30pm to hear more!



What's Coming Up

15 September	Alpha Course
16 September	Playtime with Alpha
18 September	Encounter for Seniors
21 September	Newish Morning Tea
21 September	MTS Info Session

For more on what's happening this spring at St Stephen's, visit
st-stephens.com.au/spring

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