



# THRIVING – Living a Life with the Right Alignment

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This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

#### Connect:

- **Alignment of Geometry** - for example, a car's wheels when out of alignment will pull you off course. Its tyres wear out faster, creates danger and will take you in the wrong direction.
- **Relational Alignment** - "who and what we attach ourselves to", if this is off life can become very difficult and pressure will form.

#### Engage:

1. Read [Philippians 3:1](#)
2. What does it mean to 'rejoice in the Lord'?
  - "Rejoice in the Lord" is the equivalent of the Old Testament exclamation, "Hallelujah". Paul shared with the Philippians the principle of being able to rejoice **in the Lord** – not in circumstances or in situations, but **in the Lord**, who works all things together for good.
  - "It is a duty for us to cultivate this joy", to arrest any tendency to murmur and complain; to find fault with God's dealings or to seek to elicit sympathy.
3. Read [Philippians 3:2-4](#)
  - Paul was passionate about risks of inappropriate doctrine and legalism.
  - "Watch out for those dogs": aggressive, brutal, evil people with impure minds.
  - Demonstrated legalism – demanding circumcision.
  - Legalism is a form of control; "Judaizing".
  - Circumcision is 1 of 613 laws in the Pentateuch (first 5 Old Testament books).
  - God's intention – grace to operate, the Law is fulfilled in Christ.
4. Can we become legalistic?

#### Framework:

5. **Legalism has a damaging impact:**

- Legalism **Promotes unbiblical standards** (self-importance) - *Biblical Truth not applied appropriately, excessive control of others.* Dangers of liberalism and extremism.
- Legalism **Promotes performance** (self-righteous) - *Justified by what a person does rather than relationship with Christ.*
- Legalism **Promotes separation** (self-centredness) - *Risk of stubbornness and conflict that creates division.*
- Legalism **Demotes Jesus** (stifles grace) - *God's love and grace are powerful, but the wrong actions of people can badly impact others.*

**“Legalism declares... “I will do, or I won’t do.”  
Gospel declares... “I can’t do, but Jesus did.””**

Erik Raymond

6. What other reasons make legalism dangerous?
7. How can we respond to a very legalistic person?
8. Read [Philippians 3:5-7](#)
9. You may feel no value or worth, but God sees you differently. He always sees your heart. He has placed value in each of us. He has placed value in you! Read that again.
10. Perspective change is needed. What has Christ done for you?
11. What is worthless in your life?

**“We might impress people with our strengths  
but we connect with people through our weaknesses.”**

Craig Groeschel

12. Read [Acts 9:3-4](#)
13. Are you really aligned with God?
  - Paul’s mission was to destroy the church.
  - His conversion to faith in Christ was not based on what he had done but because of God’s grace and call.
  - Despite religious zeal, Paul did not have a real understanding of God (he had no idea about the Lord).
  - People are not naturally aligned with God.
  - **Legalism can damage the church and others:** We have to keep our hearts soft.

**“Diamonds are intrinsically worthless, except for the deep psychological need they fill.”**

Nicky Oppenheimer (*ex-Chairman of DeBeers Diamonds*)

14. On what or where are you placing your value and worth?
15. Are you looking to God first? Are you trusting in Christ first?

16. Read [Philippians 3:8-11](#)
17. How do you measure value and worth?
18. What is the infinite value of *knowing* Christ?
19. Read [Luke 19:5-10](#)
  - Zacchaeus was “Materially Successful but Relationally Dysfunctional”. He used the LAW to become rich and was despised by many.
  - He knew 3 things:
    - Things were wrong in his life
    - Jesus had answers
    - Crowds were a problem - He had Limitations (his height)
  - He repositioned himself and was willing to change position.
  - Jesus was already looking for him and called him by name.
  - *Zacchaeus* RESPONDED! He reset his journey and stepped into faith!
  - *Jesus said, “Salvation has come to this home today-”*
  - Realigning his life to follow Christ impacted all those in his world.
20. Are you truly aligned with God or are you off track?

### Conclusion:

- ***We can all Thrive!*** Let God Get you back on track! With Him and others. Pray!