

OCF Small Groups: *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

Philippians 3: 1 - 11

(Sunday, November 7)

1. What are some things you have treasured or benefited from (e.g., physical objects, achievements, honors, privileges, etc.)?

2. a. The badge of family, ethnic membership for the male Jew was circumcision, a mark on the physical body that was prized for its benefits. Paul sees some of his contemporaries obsessed with this, particularly with inflicting it on Gentiles to try to make them acceptable to God. By contrast, Paul describes who the “true circumcision” is (v. 3). Other than circumcision, what sorts of fleshly things could have made Paul feel worthy of God’s approval (v. 4)?

b. In what sorts of fleshly things—family history, virtues, talents, and so on—are we tempted to put confidence?

c. How do we put no confidence in the flesh (v. 3)?

3. a. In verse 6 Paul speaks of “righteousness under the law” or “legalistic righteousness.” What legalisms are Christians pressured to keep today?

b. How do these legalisms get in the way of knowing Christ and rejoicing in the Lord?

4. a. What does it look like to “count everything as loss” compared to knowing Christ (vv. 7 – 8)?

b. How is sharing in Jesus’ sufferings an example of this (v. 10)?

5. a. Paul says that because of Christ, the values and practices that were previously so important to him are now like “rubbish” or “excrement” (verse 8). How has this been your experience?
- b. Does Paul mean that a Christian must give up everything for Christ? Why or why not?
6. a. The Greek word for know indicates experiencing, not just knowledge. What does Paul want to experience (“know”) in his relationship with Christ (vv. 8 – 11)?
- b. How are suffering and death involved in helping us to know Christ (v. 10)?
- c. How has following Christ been costly for you?

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION Philippians 3: 8 - 11

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank you for loving me and paying for my salvation. Thank you that I don't have to earn it. I praise you for a righteousness of my own that comes through faith in you and depends only on faith. I pray for those I love who don't trust in you for salvation to confess their sins and believe in you. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.