

LIFE Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Series: Joy in the Journey

Sermon Title: New Values and a New Goal

Sermon Text: Philippians 3: 1-11

Sermon Date: April 14, 2013

Summary: In Philippians 3, Paul begins by calling them to rejoice, but quickly is diverted to warn them about some of the bad ideas and teaching that they likely will encounter. He'll get back to rejoicing in Chapter 4. Paul's main warning here is about those who teach moralism and sacramentalism, the notion that observing rituals and keeping the law is what saves a person. Paul is harsh in his language refuting that notion, explaining that is where he used to be, but now in Christ things are very different. Righteousness comes through faith in Christ, and that leads to a life committed to knowing Him, His power, His sufferings and culminating in resurrection at the last day.

Discussion questions

1. Who are the dogs and evildoers and why is that ironic? Why such harsh language?
2. What does Paul mean when he says "we are the circumcision?"
3. What characterizes us who are "spiritually circumcised?"
4. What is worship in the spirit of God?
5. What does it mean to glory in Christ Jesus?
6. What does it mean to have no confidence in the flesh? What should our confidence be in?
7. What kind of man was Paul before his conversion?
8. What kind of man was he post-conversion?
9. What are his new values?
10. What are his new goals?
11. How do we get God's righteousness?
12. To what degree are you interested in sharing in Christ's sufferings? Is that a worthy goal for a Christian, to share in Jesus' sufferings? Why or why not?
13. How did Paul suffer the loss of all things? What application does that imply for us?