

## Week 6 - All is Loss compared to Christ (3:1-11)

- A. Central Theme: Joy (v. 1)
  - 1. "Finally, my brothers, **rejoice** in the LORD."
    - a. Find our full joy in the Lord, rather than human traditions, religious practices, or human credentials and abilities.
    - b. Paul introduces the section to follow in which he warns against false teachers and repeats instruction he has already given
- B. Warning about False Teachers (v. 2-3)
  - 1. Who are they?
    - a. "Look out" - (3 times in vs. 2) for
      - 1. dogs, evildoers, and those who mutilate the fleshHis warning is against those who would impose religious rights (circumcision in this case) as the means of salvation and thus mandatory for salvation
  - 2. Who are we?
    - a. "the circumcision" - spiritual Israel (Galatians 3:6-4:7)
      - 1. "who worship by the Spirit of God"
      - 2. "glory in Christ Jesus"
      - 3. "put no confidence in the flesh"
- C. Human Credentials (v. 4-6)
  - 1. Paul's Credentials - The Hebrew of Hebrews
    - a. Circumcised on the 8th day (according to Genesis 17:12)
    - b. An Israelite (Pure Nationality and Heredity)
    - c. Of the Tribe of Benjamin (the tribe that stood with Judah)
    - d. A Pharisee (the strictest sect of Judaism who followed the law and all of the Jewish traditions associated with it)
    - e. A Persecutor of the Church (his zeal for the law led to action)
    - f. Blameless - as to righteousness under the law (his obedience to observable following of the Judaizers camp - Pharisees being a much stricter sect.)
  - 2. Before Conversion Paul had a confidence in his breeding, his background, and his righteous standard of living up to the Law and all its traditions. But his Confidence was in the wrong thing, and Christ destroyed it all on the Damascus road.
- D. Christian Credentials and Benefits (v. 7-11)
  - 1. All of Paul's Self-Confidence was discarded for Christ!
    - a. Everything was Loss compared to the Surpassing worth of Knowing Christ Jesus as Lord.
    - b. Everything was lost for His sake (Christ)
    - c. Everything was considered rubbish in order to gain Christ and be found in Him
  - 2. Paul's Confidence now was in Christ and based not on his works but on
    - a. Faith in Christ
      - 1. Christ is the object of Faith - faith is not a power or subject all its own. It has no power apart from Christ
      - 2. Faith is an instrument not the grounds for righteousness, it is through faith that we are saved.
        - a. Faith does not save - Christ does!
    - b. Righteousness from God

1. Gift of God that we do not merit or earn. We receive righteousness by being in Christ and being united with him.
3. His Objective now was to
  - a. Know Him - This is a deep and abiding knowledge - a personal union with Christ
    1. Know the Power of His Resurrection
      - a. The Resurrection is the core message of the gospel as it demonstrates the power of Christ and validates the atonement, his perfect life, and our salvation and hope for eternal glory.
    2. Share in his sufferings
      - a. True Christian identity can only come as we are participating in the sufferings of Christ.
    3. Become like Christ in his death (this is tied to sharing in sufferings)
    4. Attain the resurrection from the dead (this is tied to knowing the power of His Resurrection)
  4. We can see the process of Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification in v. 9-11
    - a. Justification - righteousness that comes from faith in Jesus Christ
    - b. Sanctification -

E. In Class Work:

1. Together - Read the section from this week (Philippians 3:1 - 3:11) and discuss together.

F. Questions to Consider

1. Paul presents his human credentials in v. 4-6. What human credentials do we often cite as evidence for our acceptance or salvation?
2. There is only one way to be saved: God's way. Man's way can never succeed. Suggest a few modern religious systems which contradict the clear teaching of the apostle in this passage.
3. What evangelistic approaches would you use in helping such people to understand the true gospel of God's grace?
4. Paul counts everything as loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus as his Lord. What thoughts or feelings come to mind when you hear that phrase? Do you have a similar perspective and objective to Paul?

G. For Further Study / Homework

1. HOMEWORK: Read Philippians 1:1-4:1 this week with a focus on 3:12-4:1 for next week's study. Read Daily. Write down, highlight, or note questions, comments, or things you notice in the text throughout the week to discuss next Sunday.
2. Read 2 Peter 2:1-22 and Jude. What are some of the main characteristics of false teachers? Read 2 John 7-22. How are God's people to respond to false teachers?
3. Read John 6:63. What does the Lord Jesus Christ have to say about dependence on the flesh? Read Romans 8:5-9. What does the apostle Paul say about the flesh pleasing God?
4. Read John 1:18; 1 Peter 1:19; 1 John 3:5. Did Jesus lead a sinless life? Why is this important?