

# TREASURING CHRIST ABOVE ALL THINGS

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Philippians 3:1-11

I. THE \_\_\_\_\_ EFFECT OF GOSPEL ENEMIES 1-3

II. THE \_\_\_\_\_ FORCE OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS 4-6

III. THE \_\_\_\_\_ POWER OF ULTIMATE TREASURE 7-11

## Philippians 3:1-11

1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

5 circumcised on the eighth day,  
of the people of Israel,  
of the tribe of Benjamin,  
a Hebrew of Hebrews;  
as to the law, a Pharisee;  
6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church;  
as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

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<sup>9</sup> 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.

## Treasuring Christ Above All Things

May 31, 2020

**Open:** What are some things that tend to give people confidence around others?

**Read:** Philippians 3:1-11

1. In verse 2, Paul warns the Philippians to lookout for three threats: "dogs," "evil doers" and "those who mutilate the flesh." Most commentators think Paul is referring to Judaizers, Jewish Christians who taught that Gentile Christians had to obey Jewish law (circumcision, Sabbath and food laws) to be fully accepted by God. Why might this kind of teaching be dangerous?
2. In light of verse 3, read Romans 2:28-29. What is so significant about Paul saying that he and the Philippians (who were mostly Gentiles) are the circumcision? What do you think Paul means when he asserts that he and the Philippians put no "confidence in the flesh" (v. 3)? Identify some ways in which we tend to put confidence in the flesh for our approval from God.
3. Paul lists his Jewish credentials and achievements in verses 5-6, something the Judaizers would have applauded as affirming of his true acceptance by God. Yet, what words does Paul use to describe the value of those merits in verses 7-8? How is Christ exalted by these statements?
4. The "surpassing value of knowing Christ" is at the center of Paul's thinking (v. 8). What words would you use to speak of the value of your experience of knowing Christ?
5. The righteousness Paul is depending on does not come from law keeping (v. 9). Are there ways in which you are depending on your own righteous behavior to be accepted by God? Explain. What do you think Paul means by having the righteousness that comes through faith (v. 9)?
6. List all the phrases Paul uses in verses 8-11 to express the ways he wants to experience Christ. How would you explain how you want to experience Christ? Paul says he wants to become like Christ in his death (v. 10). How would you explain his meaning?

**Apply:** How has following Christ been costly for you? How have those sacrifices produced joy?

**Pray:** Ask God to help passionately pursue knowing and delighting in Christ.

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