



Philippians 3:1-11 "The Resume"

October 16th, 2016

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Philippians 3:1-11

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. Though 3:1 begins with the word "Finally", the Greek word is probably better translated, "So then...", which means that Paul is picking up on an earlier point. How is verse 1 connected to what Paul has said in Chapters 1-2, specifically his command to "Rejoice"?
2. Paul introduces this section in verse 1 by acknowledge that the things that follow are "the same things" that he has told his readers before. To repeat them is "no trouble" for him and is "safe" for them. What is he repeating and why is it worth repeating?
3. In biblical times, Jews often referred to Gentiles (non-Jewish people) as dogs, implying that they were wild, impure, and to remain outside. In verse 2, Paul warns against false teachers who require Jewish circumcision and calls them dogs. What is he implying and warning against here? What "false gospel" was being taught?
4. According to verse 3, what are the three distinguishing marks of a genuine Christian?
5. In verses 4-7, Paul describes the sources of false confidence that he has given up. Consider these 7 sources (ritual, ethnicity, rank, tradition, rule keeping, zeal and obedience). Which source is of false confidence is most enticing for you?
6. Summarize verses 9-11 in your own words. What does Paul tell us about how we become Christians and grow in a deeper knowledge of Christ?

"Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord."

-JI Packer, Knowing God

NEXT STEPS

- ☀ Consider the things that people treasure. Why do they treasure these things? What are some things that you treasure?
- ☀ How does verse 8 challenge us to examine what we treasure, and to make sure that we treasure Christ above all else?
- ☀ If someone asked you, "How do I become a Christian"?, how would you answer? Use this passage, and particularly verses 8-11 to help form an answer.



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 [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.