

Philippians – Finding Joy in All Circumstances

Week 6 – Key Verse – *More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. Philippians 3:8-9*

We will be spending two weeks studying this rich chapter. I hope you will cherish every word as God speaks through this chapter.

1. Start by reading Philippians 3:1-6.
 - a. What do you think “confidence in the flesh” means?

 - b. List what Paul had confidence in.

 - c. What were the Philippians to be aware of? What do you think Paul meant by these things?

2. In Philippians 3:2-3, Paul refers to “those who mutilate the flesh” and then refers to himself as part of the “circumcision”.
 - a. Circumcision is first mentioned in Genesis 17. List what you learn from this chapter about circumcision.

 - b. Abraham was found righteous in Genesis 15:6. Was this before or after he was circumcised? (Don’t think too hard about his.)

 - c. Based on your answer to part b, what purpose did circumcision play in the lives of the Israelites?

 - d. So why would Paul refer to circumcision as mutilation of the flesh? (Remember his upbringing.)

 - e. Do we have any rituals that we put too much confidence in?

 - f. If you were to stand before Christ in heaven and he asked you “Why should I let you in heaven?”, what would your answer be?

3. In Philippians 3:7-8, Paul uses the word “count” or “counted” repeatedly.

- a. What does he “count”?
 - b. What was “counted”?
 - c. Do you see any purpose in the repetition?
4. In Philippians 3:9, **righteousness** is the word *dikaiosyne* which means “the condition acceptable to God”.
- a. From Philippians 1:9-11, where does righteousness come from?
 - b. What good is “righteousness ... that comes from the law
 - c. Where does your righteousness come from?