

Focus passage: Philippians 3:3-11

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.

What stands out to you from this passage?

What did Paul have to pride himself in? What is it that you are tempted to be prideful about?

*Why can't we rely on what we have done? Are our works ever good enough for God? **Read Romans 8:1-3** to see how God had to do what we were unable to do on our own.*

What is it that Paul sees as infinitely more important than those things in which he had placed his confidence?

Do we see Christ like Paul does? Do we think having him is the most important thing? What else in life tries to take priority over Christ?

*Everything else in life should come second to Jesus. **Read Luke 14:26-27** and discuss the implications. What do we sacrifice in following Christ?*

Do we expect hardship and suffering (v.10) as Christians? How should we respond if we do encounter it?

*Paul wants the church to value Christ more than anything else, which gives us the ability to endure all circumstances. **Read Phil 4:10-13** and discuss the difficulties of contentment, both "in plenty and in hunger."*

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

