

FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is the greatest treasure in your life? Is it a possession? A title? An achievement or award?
2. What personal attainments do you run after? Why?

DIG DEEPER

Read Philippians 3:1-3

1. What does the apostle Paul exhort Christians to do in 3:1? Why do you think he wants to repeat this “same” message to them?
2. A safeguard is a measure taken to protect someone from harm or damage. How is ‘rejoicing in the Lord’ a safeguard for us?
3. What warning does Paul issue in verse 2? Of whom is he speaking? See Acts 15:5. Why is this party a danger to the church and the true message of the gospel?
4. Paul makes a bold claim in verse 3a that ‘we’ (believers) are the _____. What does he mean by this? See Colossians 2:11-13. * *Circumcision was the Old Testament sign of the covenant, identifying a man as being numbered among the redeemed and being a part of the people of God.*
5. We see three things about the real believers that Paul calls the ‘circumcision’:
 They worship by _____
 What does this mean? _____
 They glory in _____
 What does this mean? _____
 They put no _____
 What does this mean? _____

Read Philippians 3:4-6

6. Before Paul put his faith in Christ, his confidence was falsely in himself. What was on Paul’s resume that he was wrongly trusting in for salvation?

INHERITED PRIVILEGES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

PERSONAL ATTAINMENTS

5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

7. So, there was a time in Paul’s life when he was trying to gain God’s favor based on his pedigree and his performance. Now make your own resume. What is on it that, though perhaps fine in itself, would be an error and danger to build your identity on and put your confidence in before God?

8. Paul once sought to attain a righteous standing before God by obeying the law but learned it is impossible for anyone to attain (See Romans 3:20). Practically, do you struggle to believe that your right standing with God (your justification) is not based on your personal holiness and performance?

But aren't good works important? See Ephesians 2:10. Isn't personal holiness important? See Hebrews 12:14. Why must good works be a part of our sanctification but NOT a part of our justification?

Read Philippians 3:7-8

9. What is Paul's perspective on those credentials now? Paul counts these not just as nothing but as a _____ compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus.
10. Paul also counts these as 'rubbish', which is much more vigorous and crude in the Greek. The word 'skubalon' actually refers to 'dung'! When you think about your acceptance before God, can you say the same about your achievements? Why or why not?

Read Philippians 3:9-11

11. So here now on the other side of the page is gain! Paul suffered the loss of all things and counted them rubbish for these reasons!

Verse 9

- a. To be found in _____
- b. Not having _____
- c. Instead having _____

****This is the gain of Justification!***

Verse 10

- a. To Know _____
- b. To Know _____
- c. To share _____

****This is the gain of Sanctification!***

Verse 11

- a. To attain _____

****This is the gain of Glorification!***

12. For Paul, what is the most valuable thing in life?

BRING IT HOME

13. Where are you seeking to build your attainments like Paul before he knew Christ?
14. What is it about legalism that is tempting to believe and practice? Who are the modern day equivalents of the Judaizers?
15. How can you seek a closer walk with the Lord? Do you desire to know Him more and have true gain? What chokes out that desire? What things in our lives need to be counted as loss?

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that the Lord would be the greatest treasure whom you rejoice in.
- Pray that we would have discernment to see when the true gospel is being attacked.
- Pray that you'd count everything a loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.