

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

Sermon Reflection Questions for Creekside

These questions are designed to help individuals, families, and small groups discuss and apply passages in the Philippians sermon series as taught at Grace Bible Church in fall 2018.

Observe & Interpret

Read Philippians 3:1-11.

Observation Questions

- 1) Box all the things that Paul naturally could have put on his spiritual resume.
- 2) Highlight all the accounting terms in verses 7-8 (for example “gain” or “loss.”)
- 3) List at least one observation per verse in the space below:

Interpretation Questions

- 1) In verse 2, why does Paul describe his opponents with such strong language? Looking through the entire passage, on what grounds does Paul disagree with these people?
- 2) What is the importance of circumcision in this passage (see Genesis 17:10; Deut 30:6; Romans 4:9-12)? What is the difference between “false circumcision” and “true circumcision”?
- 3) Why does Paul list his accomplishments in verses 4-6? What point is he trying to make?
- 4) In verses 7-9, why does Paul ultimately consider his prior accomplishments of such little value?

5) If Paul's works are of no value compared to the value of knowing Christ, then why bother with good works at all? Why should Christians pursue holiness if they don't provide us with eternal life (see Romans 6:1-4; 8:10-13)?

Apply

Reflection Questions

Are there areas of your life where you "put confidence in the flesh?" What about your spiritual heritage, accomplishments, or education?

What can you do on a practical level to place your confidence in Jesus rather than in the flesh?

Memorize: "More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ..." — Philippians 3:8