



Sermon Notes and Study Questions

Live Directionally

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. ² Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put 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; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

I consider them garbage, 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 is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:1-14

Notes:

Introduction: Going the Wrong Way

- The World offers a lot of Trophies

Lesson 1: Pick Carefully Who You Listen to for Directions

- Facts Matter
- Experience Matters

Lesson 2: Be Clear on the Destination

- If you succeed in the wrong thing, you have failed.
- In Christ, success isn't winning or losing. It's obeying!

Lesson 3: Play Offense

- At some point, we have to start talking to God about our problems!
- If winning is obedience, than failing is not trying

Conclusion

Connecting Questions

1. Share about a time when you were lost or going the wrong way and it either was a big deal or lead to more adventure.
2. What is the greatest trophy you have achieved, and why it is important to you?

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think it is true that deep down everybody wants success? Why or why not?
2. How does the world you inhabit define success?
3. What trophies are you trying to collect? How has Jesus impacted the trophies you are trying to collect?
4. What are some of the characteristics and qualities of the people that you will listen to for directions in how to follow Jesus? How are these qualities and characteristics developed in our own lives?
5. What do we do with Paul's statement that "according to the law" he was faultless? Did this mean that Paul was without sin? Can you think of any Scriptures that substantiate your answer?
6. Facts matter. Christianity is not a religion. If it isn't a religion, what is it and why is it good news?
7. We are supposed to be clear on the goal. In your own words, explain what winning and success look like in the Christian life. What are key elements of the goal that should inform the way we live our lives?
8. Why do you think Paul feels so strongly that his former accomplishments in Judaism are worthless compared to knowing Christ?
9. Part of the goal of winning is participating in Jesus' mission of saving the world. What is at least one area you can point to that demonstrates that you seeking to be on mission for Jesus? Do you think your life is adequately focused on His mission, or is this a growth area? How can your Life Group be a source of encouragement for you?
10. What do you think playing offense for Jesus looks like in your life?
11. How did God speak to you through Philippians 3 and the message?

Going Deeper into Scripture

Read Philippians 3:1-14

12. Paul calls the false teachers “dogs” which was a highly derogatory term in the ancient world. Why did Paul have such a strongly negative opinion of these teachers? How should his response shape our views on teaching and false teaching?
13. As a group, try to identify the significance of each of the seven achievements that Paul listed in verses 4-6. Think through how Paul’s accomplishments would have been better than what any of the Christians in Philippi could have hoped to achieve.
14. Instead of confidence in the flesh, Paul wanted to “know Christ.” Using the Scripture passage, fill-out what Paul meant by “knowing Christ”.
15. What is the difference between righteousness that comes from the law and righteousness that comes from Christ?
16. What does “the power of Jesus’ resurrection” mean?