

Philippians Guide

Week 2 / Philippians 3:8-11 / Plan A

Reading:

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.

Getting Started

Read the above verses

1. In your own words, summarize the verses above.

Digging in

1. In verse 9, Paul compares the “*righteousness of my own that comes from the law*” and a righteousness “*which is through faith in Christ...*”. What is the difference between these two things? What does it look like to trust in each of them separately?

Going Deeper

Here Paul has contrasted two different types of righteousness, one that comes of his own and one that is through faith in Christ.

- **Man’s righteousness**
 - What are some things that you rely on for your own righteousness?
 - Read Matthew 7:21-23
 - Does this text scare you? Why or why not?

- Now, read Philippians 2:12-13
 - How is your salvation continually “worked out”?
 - What does that look like for you right now?
- **Christ’s righteousness**
 - Paul says that he desires a righteousness through faith in Christ, which comes from God. What does this mean?
- **What is not Christ is rubbish/garbage**
 - Paul says that anything that is not Christ, or does not help point him to knowing Christ is garbage (*skybalon* “skoo-balon”; waste, excrement)
 - What are things in your life that you can look at as rubbish that might get in the way of better understanding Christ?
 - What are some things that aren’t necessarily a bad thing that could be considered “rubbish”?
 - Hint: think of Brad’s cow patty illustration

Application

1. Priorities and Taking Chances

To more intimately know Christ and understand the power of His resurrection brings the understanding of what it means to follow Him. In Philippians 2:6-8, Paul talks about Christ didn’t use his standing to His advantage, took the form of a servant who humbled himself and was obedient to what God had for Him, even to the point of death. God wants humble, obedient followers.

- a. What are some ways that this truth can get distorted in the minds of Christians?
- b. What were some times that you felt God’s calling in your life?
 - i. What was your response to that calling?
 - ii. Is there something that is going on in your life that you are trying to determine what his calling is for you?

2. One-on-one time

- a. How important is one-on-one time in a relationship?
- b. Can 1-1 time be cheated/shortcutted?
 - i. What happens if it is?
- c. How are you doing in that department with God in this season?
 - i. Besides “white-knuckling” it, what steps can be made to improve that?

Reflection

1. What practical steps can you take to make sure that the “rubbish” doesn’t get in the way of your time with God?
2. How can you help each other as a group to stay focused on the things that matter?

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Week 1 / Philippians 3:8-11 / Plan A

Reading:

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Questions

In this section, there are three things that we want to mention and highlight. The first, is understanding everything that can get in the way of better knowing Christ (the garbage). Second, is the difference between the two types of righteousness that Paul mentions in verses 9-10. Last, it is the importance of better knowing Him to know and have the power/understanding that comes from Him.

- **The Garbage**

- What are some “good” things that can get in the way of better knowing Christ?
 - Hint: think to Brad’s cow patty illustration
- What are things, in particular, that you are prone to allow to get in the way?

- **Man’s righteousness vs. God’s righteousness**

- What is the difference between a “*righteousness of my own that comes from the law*” and a righteousness “*which is through faith in Christ...*”.
- What does it look like to trust in each of them separately?

- **One-on-one Time**

- How important is one-on-one time in a relationship?
- Can 1-1 time be cheated/shortcutted? What happens if it is?
- How are you doing in that department with God in this season?
 - Besides “white-knuckling” it, what steps can be made to improve that?