

## The Challenge

Based On: Philippians 3:7-11

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### Overview Philippians 3:7-11

ROI is a business abbreviation that stands for return on investment. According to Investopedia, ROI is calculated by “the benefit (return) of an investment divided by the cost of the investment; the result is expressed as a percentage or ratio.” In Philippians 3 the Apostle Paul is evaluating the cost of knowing Christ. In Philippians 3:7 he starts out by describing everything in the terms of gains and losses. If you read this passage through the lens of a businessman you can determine that Paul is calculating His spiritual ROI. Everything that Paul had accomplished in his life paled in comparison to the worth of knowing Christ. All the countless hours of study, discussions, and religious training didn’t even come close to comparing to the value of knowing Christ. Paul would say that the ROI of knowing Christ far surpassed anything else in his life. He considered all these other accomplishments to be garbage. Paul knew that any righteousness that he had could only come through faith in Jesus. Righteousness doesn’t come through personal effort, spending hours in prayer, or seeking ways to serve. After placing everything in perspective, Paul states in Philippians 3:10 that “I want to know Christ.” For him the greatest investment anyone could make in their life would be to know Christ.

### Bible Study: Philippians 3:7-11

1. Discuss a goal you accomplished in your life. What sacrifices did you need to make in order to accomplish the goal?
2. What value do you place upon knowing Christ? How is this reflected in your personal Bible study time, prayer, and service?
3. In what ways do people try to obtain righteousness outside of faith in Christ?
4. What would you consider to be benchmarks for spiritual maturity? Does someone need to spend \_\_\_\_ minutes reading their Bible or \_\_\_\_ minutes in daily prayer to be considered spiritually mature?
5. Paul states in Philippians 3:10 that he wants to participate in Christ’s sufferings. What does participating in Christ’s sufferings look like living in the United States? Does “suffering” differ depending upon perception?
6. Paul was a very religious person before knowing Christ. Discuss as a group the difference between being religious and knowing Christ.
7. Warren Weirsbe (a Biblical theologian) once wrote: “It is one thing to be religious enough to get into the synagogue (church), and quite another to be righteous enough to get into heaven.<sup>1</sup>” In what ways can believers confuse “right living” with being righteous?
8. What steps can you take to prioritize your day to reflect the importance of knowing Christ?

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<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 567). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.