

Sermon Title: Depending on Faith

Sermon Series: Philippians – Unbreakable Joy

Scripture: Philippians 3:4-11

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



Our lives tend to be controlled by the things we do to gain approval.

How do we find _____ with God?

Philippians 3

Paul shares he's found the super thing, that the other things that used to control him don't have a grip on him anymore.

1. To find _____ with God, we will try to count on our _____.

Philippians 3:4 ESV

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

Philippians 3:5-6 ESV

5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Philippians 3:5-6 ESV

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Philippians 3:5-6 ESV

5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

What do you count on or boast about?

Philippians 3:7a ESV

7 But whatever gain I had...

Philippians 3:7-8 ESV

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...

Philippians 3:7-8 ESV

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...

“You know my three degrees from Harvard, you know my congressional medal of honor, you know my two pulitzer prizes, all crap.”

—Tim Keller

Most of the time, it's not our sin that keeps us from acceptance with God, it's our righteousness.

Romans 10:3 ESV

3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

Most people believe Christianity is about becoming a better or more religious you.

You can't find God by becoming a better you.

2. To find _____ with God, we count all our accomplishments as _____.

Philippians 3:7-8 ESV

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...

Jesus is the one that I've found. He is the one I count on — Christ is worth more than my accomplishments.

3. To find acceptance with God, we must go through _____.

We get the benefits of the one who earned it.

2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Philippians 3:7-8 ESV

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...

4. Through faith in Jesus, I find _____

Philippians 3:9-11 ESV

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

I believe in what he did for me, instead of what I do for him.

A. Find right _____ with God

B. Find _____ in suffering

C. Find _____

My acceptance depends on what _____ did for me instead of what I _____ for God.

“Ultimately, human rest is not found in measuring the size of your righteousness, strength, and wisdom against the size of what you’re facing. No, rest is found when you compare the size of what you’re facing to the person, presence, character, power, and grace of the One who is with you wherever you go.”

—Paul Tripp – New Morning Mercies

Getting to know you Questions:

1. If you were to put together your resume, what would it say?
2. We all want to “find ourselves.” What are some of the ways you’ve seen people try to find themselves?
3. How have you seen people place their confidence in self rather than Christ? What effect does this have?

Into the Bible Questions:

Read Philippians 3:4-11

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for 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; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order 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 comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

4. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?

5. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?

6. Ian shared that Paul’s point was “Most of the time, it’s not our sin that keeps us from acceptance with God, it’s our righteousness.” Why is this different from what we tend to think?

7. How does our righteousness keep us from God?

8. What does it mean to be “found in” Christ? How is this related to being righteous?

9. Which of your “gains” is it most challenging for you to view as a “loss” in comparison to knowing Christ? Another way to put this is what are you most tempted to find your validation in?

10. How does faith help us share in his sufferings and experience the power of his resurrection?

For Extra Study, Read Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

11. What does faith have to do with righteousness?

12. What do you find challenging about trusting God?

13. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out? Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions

14. What things are you hesitant to lose or count as rubbish for the sake of Christ? Why?

15. How might this relate to putting confidence in the flesh?

16. How do you see yourself putting confidence in your achievements?

17. How might your life look differently if you were to believe by faith that Christ's righteousness was enough for you in each moment of life?

18. If you face disappointment or rejection in an area you counted on, how can God help you see that you don't have to have confidence in that?

19. How can we encourage each other to count on Jesus?