

### **Philippians 3:1-11 New Living Translation**

**1** Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.

**2** Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. **3** For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, **4** though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

**5** I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. **6** I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

**7** I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. **8** Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ **9** and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. **10** I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, **11** so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

### ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

What are you passionate about? What makes your heart beat faster and excites you?

Read Acts 8:1-3 and 9:1-2. How would you describe Saul's passion? What is he fighting for at this point in his life?

Read Philippians 3:1-11. How has Paul's passion changed since he met Jesus?

Meditate on Philippians 3:7-8. What does Paul consider worthless? Why?

If you were writing this letter, what would you describe as your accomplishments or assets in verses 5 and 6?

Read Romans 6:1-11. How does resurrection power impact our lives today?

What do you think Paul means when he says in Philippians 3:10, "I want to suffer with Him, sharing in His death"?

How do we share in Jesus' sufferings?

What do you need to do to know Jesus better? How can your group help you?

**Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**

**Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?**

**Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**