

Lesson 8, PHILIPPIANS 3:10-21

The Jewish leaders must have thought that they squelched the spread of Christianity when they stoned Stephen. Little did they know that the one who held the cloaks of those who wielded the stones would become the greatest evangelist of all time. The blood of the saints waters the seeds of faith of the church.

Read Acts 9:1-31 which is the account of the conversion of Saul.

1. Read verses 10-11. Where does Paul say our power comes from? What is that power like? What do you think resurrection power looks like in our world?
2. What does Jesus say about resurrection in John 5:28,29 and John 11:25,26 ?
3. Read Ephesians 1:17-20, how do you compare it to Philippians 3:10,11?
4. Read verse 12. Paul admits we never enter the fullness of righteousness in our own power while on earth. (Our eternal righteousness comes only through faith in Jesus.) However, in our faith walk, striving needs to be part of our Christian DNA. In what areas of your life do you “press on”?
5. Read verses 13,14. Think of a relay race and the importance of passing the baton to the next runner. These verses can have different meanings. See Luke 24:46-47 and Psalm 103:11,12 about forgiveness. How do these relate to our Philippians verses? These verses can also relate to our works for the Lord. See Ephesians 2:10 and James 2:20-22. How do these verses relate to our Philippians verses?
6. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What are your thoughts when reading this about your life’s race?
7. Read verses 15-21. Who are the two types of people that Paul describes? Compare these verses to Romans 12:1-2. Who else was looking forward to heavenly citizenship? See Hebrews 12:9,10.

Application: Imagine yourself running a race. Who are your spectators cheering you on? Who are you cheering on?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you delight in our journey of faith. In our successes, you are there to give us “high fives”. When we fall, you are there to pick us up. Help us to press on, forgetting past sins or past works and push forward to what you have for us each day of our lives. Thank you, Father, that you use us to build your kingdom and by that, you increase our faith. We pray this in the matchless name of glory, Jesus Christ. Amen.

