

Philippians 3:1-11

What's My Life About?

Image Church // Philippians Week 8

MPS: The pursuit of Jesus above all else.

Introduction

Well good morning image family and friends that are joining us this morning!

I hope by now all of you have signed up to receive our **weekly update**, and that you have filled out the **survey** that we've been sending out in the update. This **survey** is going to be huge in helping us navigate what it looks like to gather again...

So, if you haven't filled it out yet make sure to do that, and if you haven't signed up for the **weekly update**, it takes 5 seconds, just go to **imageatl.com** and click the **stay connected button**.

Ok, if you have your Bibles go ahead and grab them and turn to **Philippians 3**.

This message today is very personal, I feel like I've been wrestling with what we're going to be looking at today for the past several months... I have been a Christian for a long time, I have studied the Bible a lot...

And I feel like in this season that God's drawing me deeper into what it really means to follow Jesus... That if I really believe what this Bible teaches then it really changes everything in a very real and radical way.

I just think it's so easy to get so comfortable in our Christianity, and the more comfortable we get the more complacent we get...

- And I just never want to get to a place where I am comfortable with where I'm at spiritually...

- I never want to get to a place where I minimize the realities of what it means to follow Jesus...

And what we're going to see today is that Paul's going to press into this in a very real and convicting way...

Let's jump in...

Philippians 3:1-11

3 In addition, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. To write to you again about this is no trouble for me and is a safeguard for you. **2** Watch out for the dogs, watch out for the evil workers, watch out for those who mutilate the flesh. **3** For we are the circumcision, the ones who worship by the **Spirit of God**, **boast in Christ Jesus**, and do not put **confidence** in the flesh—

What's happening here?

- Religious people
- There are some things you need to **do** in order to be saved...
- You need to be circumcised to be saved...

Don't listen to them fam.... We are the circumcision, not by the works of our hands but by the work of the Spirit on our hearts... We boast in Christ and His work, our confidence is in Him not in ourselves....

But if you want to go there, *let me step in the ring with you for a second and show you how this works...*

4 although I have reasons for **confidence** in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised the eighth day; of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; regarding the law, a Pharisee; **6** regarding zeal, persecuting the church; regarding the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.

Paul says you think you have reason to boast, I have more! And I want you to look at the categories that he holds up... ¹

¹ 4 areas grafted from David Platt.

- Family heritage
- Social status
- Biblical knowledge
- Religious and moral activity

Those are all of the areas where he could have confidence, and yet here's what he says about all of it...

7 But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a **loss** because of Christ.

Watch this, everything that was once considered an **asset**, Paul now classifies as **liabilities**.

Why?!? Because that which serve as boasting points are the very things that kept him from Christ- they are the things that lead to pride, self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and self-justification...

- The things he had viewed as beneficial and good, in reality been working to destroy him because they were blinding him to his need for the "real righteousness" that God required, which he himself could in no way achieve by his own efforts, however earnest they may be²

He's saying my efforts don't matter when it comes to salvation...

And check this out... When Paul says **everything that was gain to me, I consider loss**...

- He's not saying he's simply going from good to better...
- He's not saying he's reprioritizing his values...

He's saying I have **abandoned** every gain...

Example: Resume- it's a means to justify yourself for the sake of a certain job...

- Paul's saying, I burned my resume...

There's nothing that I can boast in when it comes to my salvation no matter how good it may be...

There's nothing about myself I can be confident in...

Let me ask you this, when it comes to how God views you, where do you look?? What is it that you point to?

- *Works?*

When I share the gospel with people the first place they like to go is their spiritual resume...

I grew up in a Christina home, I went to church, I have been a deacon in my church, I have read the bible, I have been a good person...

Great danger to the Christian life: confidence in the flesh...

- Proximity and practice do not give you the presence of Jesus...

Some of you need to lay down your resume... You have confidence in the flesh...

- Resumes are taxing, tiring, and divisive...
- They leave you insecure and unsure...

Paul keeps going...

8 More than that, I also consider **everything** to be a **loss** in view of the surpassing value of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. Because of him I have **suffered** the **loss** of **all things** and consider them as **dung**, **so that I may gain Christ** **9** and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith**.

He's where righteousness comes from... Christ

Here's how it plays out: Faith

10 My goal is to know him and the power of his **resurrection** and the fellowship of his **sufferings**, being conformed to his death,

² Hawthorne, G. F. (2004). *Philippians* (Vol. 43, p. 189). Dallas: Word, Incorporated.

11 assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

Note: v. 11: This sounds strange, but you have to understand what Paul's doing here, he's humbling himself before God with awe and amazement, highlighting the fact that salvation is a complete and total act of God from start to finish... He says this is a way that put's the spotlight on God's work through Jesus, that salvation isn't something to be presumptuous about, it is a gift and a privilege.

Here's where I want to drill down this morning...

What we see from Paul is that the gospel is incredible compelling... in fact, it's revolutionary, its life altering, it changes everything, every priority and every outlook on life... It literally reshapes everything...

And yet for most Christians that's just not the case...

I am just concerned that we come so familiar with the things of Jesus that we actually miss Jesus and the call of Jesus to follow him...

- Jesus' life was radical- our call is to follow in that...

I just feel like so often in Christianity we miss that. Christianity is just something that's part of our life, but it doesn't shape it...

For Paul, Jesus shaped his life... How??

- **Gospel!**

The reality is, if we really believe what the bible teaches then it calls us out of complacency... It calls us to run after Jesus, it calls us to forsake everything of this world for the sake of Jesus...

I think for a lot for us we've manipulated Christianity to cater to our convince...

- Family first- becomes an idol...
- Generosity- I give a little here and there, maybe hit 10% and I am doing really good!
- Serving- just when I can, and just enough to feel good...
- Church- an event to attend when I can make it... But I do go!

Here's the big thing I have been wrestling with and what I want to lay before you is this is very simple but very challenging and convicting principal:

Can we say with Paul that we consider everything a loss compared to Christ?

- Do we understand the call to Christianity is a call to living radically different than the world...??

If we really believe Jesus is who He said He is it changes everything, is that really happening???

- The way I view everything changes...

Am I willing to fellowship in Christ's sufferings...

Conclusion

There was a man in the jungle gets saved... so excited about the news and his belief, runs to the next tribe to share the gospel with them- Gets there, get's everyone together shares the gospel with them and they laugh at him...

- Exhausted from his journey and hurt by their laughter he lays down at the base of a tree and falls asleep...
- Wakes up to the entire tribe around him, he thinks oh no... And the leader says when you came over here and fell asleep, we saw your feet and how bruised and cut they were and we realized that you've gone to great lengths and suffering to bring us this message and so we want to hear it again...