



Sermon Series: Life Worth Living Part 5

Sermon Title: Unnecessary Baggage

Speaker/ Date: Scott McCrea, October 10, 2021

Philippians 3:1-9

Big Idea: God's plan for salvation is grace plus nothing

We will look at three statements that support our big idea.

1. Some people are looking to deceive you

Philippians 3:1-2

Paul sends out a warning to watch out for one particular group of people - Judaizers. The Judaizers taught that salvation came through Jesus PLUS following the Jewish law. Paul considered their work dangerous and not of God.

Anyone who tells you that salvation is only possible when it's Jesus plus something else does not understand God's God's grace. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Test what anyone teaches you against the bible. The bible is the benchmark for what is true.

2. Your best is not good enough.

Philippians 3:3

Rather than focus on external customs, Paul focuses on the condition of the heart, and he lists the marks of genuine believers.

Genuine believers worship in the Spirit of God, boast in Christ Jesus, put no confidence in the flesh. That is, we come to God on the merits of Jesus Christ and what He accomplished for us. **Philippians 3:4**

Paul then proceeds to list his resume. **Philippians 3:5-6**

Paul lists seven achievements. The first four he had no control over. They are ones which he had at birth. Circumcision on the 8th day, he was a pure-blooded Jew, of the tribe of Benjamin. This tribe had a special place of honor and was viewed with great esteem. He was a Hebrew son of Hebrew parents. Hebrew was Paul's native language.

Next, he named those which he voluntarily chose—being a Pharisee, persecuting the church, and having a flawless record of sticking to the Jewish laws.

Pharisees were one of the strictest religious groups among the Israelite people. The Pharisees prided themselves on knowing the scriptures inside and out and living strictly according to the Jewish laws.

Paul listed these things to remind the Philippians that if anyone was qualified to place their confidence in these works, it was him - yet he chose not to. He chose freedom in Christ.

Maybe you have an impressive resume of accomplishments, but it doesn't carry any weight in regard to your salvation. **Romans 11:6**

3. Nothing else matters

Philippians 3:7-11 NIV

That whole list of bragging rights that Paul had meant nothing to him. Nothing else really mattered to him any longer. Having Christ as his Savior and Lord far surpassed anything he had achieved in life. **Philippians 3:8,9**

What is the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ? Martin Luther called it "The Great Exchange."

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

On the cross, Jesus took our sinful Unrighteousness and gave us His perfect, sinless righteousness so that when God the Father looks upon all who put their trust in Jesus as their savior, He sees us as righteous.

Those who turn to Jesus and believe in him and trust in him to be their savior are **MADE RIGHTEOUS**, and those who Jesus knows will be saved.

Paul gave the Philippians an example to follow. His example was, of course, in stark contrast to the Judaizers whose example they were not to follow.

Big Idea: Gods plan for salvation is grace plus nothing

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **How would you explain grace to someone who is not familiar with it?**
- **What groups today are similar to the Judaizers in that salvation involves Jesus plus something we must do?**
- **Is there anything that you believe you must do to contribute to your salvation? What are some things people do today to earn salvation?**
- **Have you ever unknowingly followed a false teacher? Why did you decide to turn away from them?**