

# PHILIPPIANS



JOY IN  
CHRIST

## Sermon Notes

### Paul's Reminder: Fix the Scoreboard

#### Philippians 3:1-9

1. Read Philippians 3:1-3; Galatians 3:1-5; 2 Corinthians 3:4-6. What reminder is Paul giving to the church at Philippi? How does it echo reminders he has given to churches in his other epistles? In what way is it a safeguard to their faith? To their joy?
2. Read Philippians 3:4-6; Acts 22:1-5; Acts 26:4-11. Here Paul enumerates seven elements from his former life as a Pharisee that he once mistakenly pointed to as points on his "spiritual scoreboard". While most of us aren't tempted to lean on legalistic Judaism as a basis for our justification, we are often tempted to justify ourselves using the same categories as Paul. Can you think of an example from your own life or from your current cultural context in which you are tempted to justify yourself in something apart from the grace of God?

| Paul's Scoreboard            | Category   | Example Today |
|------------------------------|--|---------------|
| "circumcised the eighth day" | Ritual   |               |
| "of the nation of Israel"    | Race/Ethnicity                                       |               |
| "of the tribe of Benjamin"   | Tribe/Party  |               |
| "a Hebrew of Hebrews"        | Purity of Pedigree                                   |               |
| "as to the Law, a Pharisee"  | Status/Elitism                                       |               |
| "as to zeal, a persecutor"   | Passionate disdain for enemies<br>(virtue signaling) |               |
| "as to the Law...blameless"  | Rule following                                       |               |

3. 3) Read Habakkuk 1:13a; Romans 3:23; Psalm 14:3; Psalm 53:3; Psalm 105:3; Jeremiah 2:11-12. How would you sum up what these passages have to say about the character of God and sinfulness of man? In light of this, how does pointing to a spiritual scoreboard offend the holiness of God? Read Philippians 3:7. What is Paul's corrective for this?
4. Read Philippians 3:8-9. The phrase "found in Him" in Philippians 3:9 borrows language from the Book of Numbers where the Lord instructs Moses as to the designation of certain cities as "cities of refuge" where condemned parties could flee for safety before trial. Read Numbers 35:9-15. Who were the cities of refuge for? In what way does their scope of access point to the access we have to seek refuge in the person of Christ?

## *Not in Me*

by Eric Schumacher & David Ward

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No list of sins I have not done,  
No list of virtues I pursue,  
No list of those I am not like,  
Can earn myself a place with You.  
O God! Be merciful to me—  
I am a sinner through and through!  
My only hope of righteousness  
Is not in me, but only You.

No humble dress, no fervent prayer,  
No lifted hands, no tearful song,  
No recitation of the truth  
Can justify a single wrong.  
My righteousness is Jesus' life,  
My debt was paid by Jesus' death,  
My weary load was borne by Him  
And he alone can give me rest.

No separation from the world,  
No work I do, no gift I give,  
Can cleanse my conscience, cleanse my  
hands;  
I cannot cause my soul to live.  
But Jesus died and rose again—  
The pow'r of death is overthrown!  
My God is merciful to me  
And merciful in Christ alone.

My righteousness is Jesus' life,  
My debt was paid by Jesus' death,  
My weary load was borne by Him  
And he alone can give me rest.