



Nothing Better

July 23, 2023

Philippians 3:1-14

Questions for Study and Group Discussion

*** Before you begin, please read Philippians 3:1-14.*

1. Describe the first résumé you created. What things did you include on it when applying for jobs? How would it be different than a résumé you create today? (What additional experience or accomplishments would you list?)
2. In Philippians 3:3-6, Paul is listing his "résumé" before knowing Jesus. What is he trying to accomplish by doing this? What stands out to you about the things Paul includes?
3. Now read verses 7-8. In your own words, summarize what Paul is saying here.
4. In verse 9 Paul states how he is made right with God (that is, where his righteousness comes from). Using language straight from that verse, what is the source of Paul's righteousness? How is this righteousness available to us? Why is this such good news?
5. In this passage, we see Paul sharing how Jesus has drastically changed his value system – the things he had been pursuing couldn't provide the deep, genuine satisfaction he found in knowing Jesus.
 - What other pursuits can distract you from the satisfaction we're designed to find in Jesus?
 - What is it about knowing Jesus that offers this deep satisfaction Paul describes? Work as a group to identify at least 8 truths that highlight the "betterness" of Jesus – that nothing else can compare with the surpassing worth of knowing him. (These can be truths you've gleaned from reading the Bible, talking with others, or from your own experience.)
6. What does it mean to continually be knowing Jesus better and better? How does this influence how you think about knowing Christ?
7. Look at Philippians 3:11-14. Make a list of all the words, phrases, or concepts in these verses that are future-oriented.
8. How does this future-orientation (see previous question) offer hope and motivate perseverance in your relationship with Jesus?
9. What would it look like in your week (your family / friends / job / school) for you to live in a way that shows you treasure Jesus most?
10. What other questions or comments do you have about this passage that haven't yet come up and that you'd like to discuss?
11. What is your biggest take-away from what you've discussed so far? What practical step will you take to apply what you've seen in God's Word?
12. **Challenge:** Identify one way this passage is challenging or encouraging you. Who can you tell about what you're learning this coming week?
13. **Challenge – Memorize Philippians 3:7-8a:** 7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...