

"A LIFE THAT COUNTS"

Philippians 3:1-11 – Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

1. Choose your advisors carefully.

- **Galatians 5:6** – For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.

2. Stop trusting in your own ability.

- **Proverbs 3:5, 7a** – Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.

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3. Make knowing Jesus your greatest treasure.

- You can have the right ...
 - Family heritage,
 - Social status,
 - Biblical knowledge,
 - Religious activity,
 - Moral lifestyle ...
- And still not have what matters most.

4. Exchange your life to gain Jesus' life.

- "True life is not found in self-preservation but in complete surrender to God, which leads to gaining Christ." – Oswald Chambers

Coming soon:

1. **DRC Students:** Students who have finished the 6th-12th grade, be sure to join us this Wednesday, July 9, from 6-8 pm. This is the perfect time to get connected to all God is doing in our Student Ministry.
2. **The Next Step:** We all have a next step in our relationship with Jesus. What is yours? Whether it's serving on a Serve Team, connecting with a Life Group, signing up for baptism, giving, reading your Bible, etc., don't wait. Start today. Stop by the Connect Center for more information.
3. **Living Life Upside Down:** Join us next Sunday, July 13, as we continue our series on the book of Philippians. If you have ever felt stuck (or felt like you were moving backwards) in your relationship with Jesus, then don't miss next week. Invite a friend.