# Small Groups

Fall Semester *2026*

CROSSROADS CHURCH
STATEN ISLAND




**About Session 6:**

Please Read:

Memory verse:
" that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."
(Philippians 3:10)

In Philippians 3:1-11, the Apostle Paul delivers a strong and clear warning to the church about the serious danger of legalism and counterfeit religion. He writes to a spiritually committed yet vulnerable congregation, exposing false teachers—whom he harshly refers to as 'dogs' and 'evil workers'—for promoting a system based solely on human merit and external rituals. Paul emphatically advises believers to have no confidence in the flesh, drawing a clear line between empty external performance and a truly transformed heart.

To shatter any illusion that human effort could earn divine favor or God's grace, Paul presents his own pristine religious resume, filled with impressive credentials—only to systematically audit it and declare his greatest earthly achievements as nothing but rubbish and spiritual loss compared to Christ. Ultimately, he shifts the focus from man-made righteousness to the definitive, atoning work of Jesus, anchoring our security in an alien righteousness that comes solely through faith. He concludes by elevating the supreme prize of the Christian life: a deep, intimate, experiential knowledge of Christ, marked by the transformative power of His resurrection and the profound fellowship of His sufferings.

**Watch Video**

## Key References | Philippians 3:1-11

**Legalism:** is the fatal theological error of treating human works, law-keeping, or man-made regulations as a necessary supplement to the grace of God for salvation or spiritual maturity.

**Judaizers** were first-century religious hypocrites and false teachers who infiltrated the early Christian church, aggressively promoting a toxic "Christ plus" gospel. They were primarily Jewish professing believers who claimed that faith in Jesus Christ was insufficient for salvation unless converts also submitted to the Mosaic Law, became Jewish proselytes, and underwent physical circumcision.

**Circumcision** in the Bible is the physical surgical removal of the male foreskin, instituted by God in Genesis 17 as a mandatory, external sign of the Abrahamic Covenant.

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## Beware of Counterfeit Christians (Philippians 3:1–2)

“Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. 2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.”

**Highlight:** Paul gives a sharp, urgent warning to rejoice in the Lord while guarding against the Judaizers—whom he calls "dogs" and "evil workers"—who falsely teach that physical rituals and law-keeping are required for salvation.

## 2. Beware of Misplaced Confidence (Philippians 3:3–6)

*“For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— **4** though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.*

**Highlight:** Paul contrasts true believers (who worship by the Spirit and put no confidence in human effort) with his own former life, listing his elite heritage, Pharisaic status, and flawless legalistic credentials to prove that human merit is completely useless for salvation.

### 3. Focus on the Supreme Value of the Cross and Knowing Christ (Philippians 3:7–11)

*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.* ***8*** *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ* ***9*** *and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—* ***10*** *that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,* ***11*** *that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead."*

**Highlight:** Paul counts all his worldly and religious achievements as total loss and "rubbish" compared to the overwhelming worth of knowing Jesus, desiring only to be clothed in Christ's righteousness, experience His resurrection power, and share in His sufferings.

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## Discussion Questions:

1. **What are some modern "religious credentials" or good deeds that people today mistakenly trust in for their right standing before God?**

2. **Based on verses 7–9, what is the fundamental difference between a righteousness that comes from our own performance (the law) and the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ?**

**Personal Reflectionl**

*If someone looked at your calendar, your finances, and your thought life this past week, would they see evidence that knowing Christ is your supreme treasure? What needs to shift to make Him your all in all?*

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