

5. How can we center our lives and thoughts upon the “surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord”? Let’s pray together specifically for this focus in our own lives in the different areas where it applies most.

Digging Deeper (for further study):

6. In the early verses of this passage, Paul contrasts those who worship God and seek right standing with him through their own pursuits with those who seek Him on the basis of the finished work of Jesus Christ. Using those contrasting thoughts, how do *you* tend to approach God in worship, adoration, prayer, and service?

How can you apply the gospel to your approach to God in those areas, just as Paul did?

7. How does this particular passage contribute to and enforce Paul’s overall theme throughout Philippians in which “to *live* is Christ” (1:21)?

Spiritual Ambitions
Philippians 3:1-11
March 15, 2015

1. The Caution Against False Teachers (Judaizers) - v. 1-3

✧ Rejoicing in the Lord (v. 1)

✧ Judaizers (v. 2)

✧ True Worshipers (v. 3)

2. The Caution Against Religious Boasting - v. 4-8

✧ His boasting (v. 4-6)

✧ It was all counted as loss (v. 7-8)

3. The Conclusion in Finding Christ - v. 9-11

✧ Being found in Him (v. 9)

✧ Knowing Him (v. 10)

✧ Attaining to the resurrection (v. 11)

Message-Based Discussion Questions

1. As you reflect on the message, what was one observation, application, or insight that stood out to you?

2. Read the message text (Philippians 3:1-11) and make some preliminary observations. How would you describe Paul's life focus before he was changed by Jesus?

What are those things that we tend to think of as "gain" outside of Christ?

How do we keep from thinking that such things, even if they are good things, are in any way contributing to our salvation and right standing before God?

3. Once Jesus got ahold of Paul's heart and changed him (for that full story, look at Acts 9), how does Paul describe his new mindset (Philippians 3:7-11)?

How is Paul's present perspective shaped by his future hope?

Practicing It Together:

4. What are some specific ways that we can follow Paul's example in application right now? (Describe them, and then discuss how we can encourage each other to apply them.)