

Knowing Christ

July 29, 2012

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

Vol. 2 Num. 30

Core Competency:

Salvation by Grace- I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— not from works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

❸ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

Introduction

In 1999, David Phillips, also known as “the pudding guy,” discovered an unbelievable frequent-flyer promotion: buy 10 Healthy Choice products and earn 1,000 miles. When he saw Healthy Choice chocolate-fudge pudding cups at 25 cents each, Phillips went crazy. A mere \$62.50 worth, he quickly calculated, would buy 25,000 miles.

Phillips had been saving miles to take his wife on a trip to Europe. With this deal, they could easily take their two daughters along as well. What a tremendous discovery! Once Phillips fully comprehended the value of this opportunity, he cleaned out every supermarket chain in the Sacramento area. Eventually, he spent \$3,000 on 12,150 cups of pudding, accumulating 1.25 million miles.

For Phillips, the point was **NOT** the chocolate pudding. The point was getting to take his family on the trip of a lifetime. As a matter of fact, Phillips donated all of the pudding to a local charity. He considered the pudding of no value when compared with the adventure of traveling across Europe. Similarly, in Philippians 3:8, Paul says, “I consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ.” Paul knew that everything that had once mattered was insignificant in light of his relationship with Jesus Christ. Paul's single-minded devotion calls us to examine our priorities.

Through faith in Jesus Christ you have a relationship that is of surpassing value. It is not a gimmick or a promotion that expires. In Christ, God is inviting you to invest everything that you have, all that you are, and all that you hope to be.

This Week

This week, deliberately make time to be alone with God. Offer him your undivided attention, your heart, and your will. Seek both to know about Him, and to know Him. As you enter more fully into a relationship with Jesus, you will find your heart softened and your desires transformed.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Philippians 3:1-11

¹ Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write to you again about this is no trouble for me and is a protection for you.

² Watch out for “dogs,” watch out for evil workers, watch out for those who mutilate the flesh.

³ For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God, boast in Christ Jesus, and do not put confidence in the flesh—

⁴ although I once also had confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

⁵ circumcised the eighth day; of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; regarding the law, a Pharisee;

⁶ regarding zeal, persecuting the church; regarding the righteousness that is in the law,

blameless.

⁷ But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ.

⁸ More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ

⁹ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ —the righteousness from God based on faith.

¹⁰ My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

¹¹ assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

1. What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? What happens as a believer rejoices in the Lord? Does God benefit when we rejoice in Him?
2. In verse 2, Paul strongly warns against those who are requiring circumcision amongst believers. How are believers "the circumcision?"(Colossians 2:9-13)
 - a) What is “confidence in the flesh?”
 - b) What things in your life cause you to put your “confidence in the flesh”? How does this negatively affect your ability to know God?

3. What does Paul say about where our confidence should lay? (Philippians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 3:4-6)

4. a) What makes obedience pleasing to God and legalism displeasing to God? Compare 1 John 3:5 and Philippians 3:9.

b) How might the believer guard against legalism?

5. In verses 8 and 10, Paul mentions the value of knowing Christ Jesus. What practical steps might a believer take to know Christ better? What one thing in your life could you change so that you might get to know Christ better?

Sermon Notes:

③LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROU

Why can't Paul experience Christ's resurrection without sharing His suffering and death? (Optional: See Luke 9:22-26; John 12:23-26; Romans 6:5-10; 2 Cor. 4:7-18; Hebrews 5:7-9.)

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ