

# Living In Christ

## Philippians 3:1-14

### 1. Empowered Through Rejoicing vs. 1-6

Choosing to rejoice in the Lord empowers us to safeguard from choosing anything that would be an alternative to living a life in Christ; rejoicing in the Lord causes a strength that is found in the security of God's provision and the assurance of our hope for eternity.

#### Questions:

- How is rejoicing a safeguard for you? How is it not just a “bumper sticker” mentality?
- Take some time in rejoicing what the Lord has done in your life. In Acts 9:1-17, Saul (who became Paul) was on a mission to persecute Christ-followers, but he was intercepted by Jesus. His meeting with Jesus radically changed his life. What is one thing that's happened in your life that has radically changed you?
- Paul realized he had put his confidence in the wrong place (see Philippians 3:4-6). When have you placed your confidence in the wrong place and how did it turn out?
- Make a list of your own most memorable achievements. Then pray before the Lord and humbly acknowledge that all of these things cannot bring you any closer to Him. Ask Him to make you humble and rely on Him rather than yourself.

### 2. Evaluating What is Gain vs. 7-9

What was once important or of great value to Paul, such as his Pharisee lifestyle, his zeal, his Jewish heritage, is reevaluated and reassessed as Paul has a new focus of what is important; knowing Christ Jesus.

To knowing Christ is of Great Value and nothing can compare. Knowing Christ is to gain an ongoing relationship that is ours in Christ, our new identity is found in Him, and pointing forward to the fullness of our salvation in Christ when Christ returns. Everything else in life is secondary and would cause great loss if we place it as great of importance in our life.

#### Questions:

- What is an example of a worldly thing you have pursued before (or are still pursuing) that you need to give up for the sake of following after Christ?

### **3. Embracing What is Glorious vs. 10-14**

Knowing Christ is not just about avoiding what is worthless, but also to embrace what is glorious.

- 1) Focusing on the Lord who strengthens or empowers us
- 2) Participating together in hardship, as we continue to live for Christ.
- 3) We are not alone! Jesus has taken a hold of us.
- 4) Only looking forward, as we live out our specific calling that God has given.

#### **Questions:**

- How can we apply the principle of forgetting what lies behind and straining toward what is ahead?
  
- How can you strive to know Christ better in your daily life?