

## Philippians 3:1- 4:1

### Leader's Notes

This week we look at Paul's life resume and how he compares it to knowing Christ. The first question will be key to getting your group really thinking this week so don't shy away from it. Also, if you aren't in the habit already, be sure to ask your group members about what they are taking away from the sermon each week. Example question: "What did you take away from Sunday's worship service? Maybe something the pastor said in his message or a song that really highlighted something for you?"  
*As always, our answers are on the next page.*

### Discussion Questions

#### Read 3:1-12

1. In Verses 4 – 6 Paul gives us his resume of his own righteousness and it is a pretty good resume. He was of the right race, had the highest rank in the dominant religion of his contemporaries, he was accomplished in his field and was extremely moral. So our first question is an introspective one. What on your life resume are you first to highlight to gain acceptability & standing among people you know & people you meet? (by the way, we are asking people in your group to be honest and open up here. Don't shrink back from this group leader!)
2. In Verses 7 – 12 Paul compares his righteousness (great resume) against knowing Christ Jesus his Lord. He does this because he realizes the gospel is not something one can add to his resume...or to his life. It alone becomes one's resume for life and all self-attempts at earning approval must be acknowledged to be rubbish to fully grasp the gospel. What is it about knowing Christ Jesus that makes Paul say it has a "surpassing worth" compared to "all things?"

#### Read 3:12 – 4:1

3. Read verses 12 – 14. How do Paul' help us understand the reality of the Christian life? How does he keep this from getting him down / depressed?
4. Look at 3:17 – 4:1. Here Paul exhorts the brothers (you can safely interpret this to mean all Christians) to ultimately believe and walk in the Lord. 2 questions: (a) What is Paul showing us about the importance of being a part of a community of believers?  
  
(b) Paul calls us citizens of heaven in v.20. How does this help you understand the contrast he has been making throughout this chapter between stuff here on earth and Jesus in Heaven?

Answers:

1. This one is open-ended. Spence's example: I try really hard to put off the image that I am the "extremely successful for his age" guy. Im married, Ive got a kid, I run a big ministry in a big church. Listen to me for I am valuable because of those things. That's where I go for approval and writing this study has helped me realize how empty that is! One could even call it...rubbish!
2. In coming to know Christ Jesus as Lord, we realize the false security we thought we had in our self-righteousness (our resume) and at the same time see the complete sufficiency of Christ's righteousness imparted to us. So, our worthlessness compared with God's immeasurable grace is why Paul could easily say "all things" were rubbish when looked at in light of knowing Christ.
3. Paul acknowledges his imperfection. That he has not come to a complete knowledge of Jesus Christ. But, Paul recognizes that the pursuit, or "pressing on," of knowing Christ has true value and his "all things" is still rubbish.
4. (a): verse 17: "imitate me" & "watch those who imitate us." Paul is putting into practice here what he teaches elsewhere and that is the importance of Christians pursuing Christ in front of one another. Paul wants them to follow his lead because he has seen what happens to those who fall away (v.18-19). It is a good thing to have other Christians to encourage you in your pursuit of Christ and to encourage you by their own pursuit of Christ.  
  
(b): Citizens of one country have no stake or claim in another country. No voice. Paul is re-emphasizing that not only are the things of our lives "rubbish" but we should even view them as foreign to us. Our home is heaven. What would it look like for us to really live this way?