

# Philippians

A GUIDE TO JOY

## Philippians 3:1-11 – Jesus Plus Anything Ruins Everything

July 12, 2020

*...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:25 (ESV)*

*Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. Philippians 3:1 (ESV)*

### 1. Religious people are dogs.

*Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— Philippians 3:2-3 (ESV)*

- Jesus people are filled with humility.
- Jesus people live a life of joy.
- Religious people are like wild dogs.
- Religious people are evildoers.
- Religious people trust Christ's work plus their work.
- Once Jesus came, the Old Testament signs pointing to him are not necessary.

*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Matthew 5:17 (ESV)*

- Today, religious people say we are saved by Christ plus a moral life.
- Today, religious people today say we are saved by Christ plus a religious life.

## 2. Religion is rubbish.

...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: 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; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Philippians 3:4–6 (ESV)

### A. Paul had an impressive resume.

...circumcised on the eighth day...

...of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin...

...as to the law, a Pharisee...

...as to zeal, a persecutor of the church...

...as to righteousness under the law, blameless...

### B. Paul threw away his resume because it was rubbish before God.

*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 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 Philippians 3:7–8 (ESV)*

- Rubbish is worse than garbage.
- Thinking we can behave our way out of sin and into heaven is offensive to God. It misses the seriousness of our sin and the price that must be paid to atone for our sin.

*We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment... Isaiah 64:6 (ESV)*

### C. What are the differences between religion and Christianity?

- Religion is about what I do. Christianity is about what Jesus has done for me.
- Religion says if I obey the rules, God will love me. Christianity says God chose to love me even when I wasn't obeying the rules.
- Religion sees good people and bad people. God rewards the good and punishes the bad. Christianity says all of us are bad people. The only good person was Jesus. It is only by trusting in Him that I am treated as a good person.
- Religion confuses justification and sanctification. Religion says we live a sanctified life to be justified by God. Christianity says we are justified by Jesus so we can live a sanctified life.
- Religious people hate to repent because repentance means admitting they are not good. Christian people love to repent because we know we are not good.
- Religious people have uncertainty in their standing before God. Christianity means we live with confidence in our standing before God.

*Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:12 (ESV)*

- Religion leads to a life of pride and despair. Christianity leads to a life of humility and joy.

## 3. Jesus is the answer.

### A. Justification — I trust Jesus alone to be made right with God.

*...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— Philippians 3:9 (ESV)*

*...as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." Romans 3:10–12 (ESV)*

*It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore. Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)*

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)*

- For Christianity, Jesus has done all the work and all we do is trust him. In all others religions we must do all the work and trust ourselves.

**B. Sanctification — Now that I am saved by Jesus, I want to know Jesus better and become more like him.**

*...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 (ESV)*

- Knowing Jesus is experiencing the power of His resurrection.
- Suffering for Christ brings us closer to Christ.

*Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you...'*  
*John 15:20 (ESV)*

**C. Glorification — I look forward to an eternity with Jesus in a resurrected body like Jesus.**

*...that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*  
*Philippians 3:11 (ESV)*

## Conclusion

- A. Religious people are dogs. Religion is rubbish. Trusting in Jesus alone is the only answer.**
- B. Jesus plus anything ruins everything.**

### Life Group Questions

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1. What stuck out to you in the message? What is one thing you will apply?
2. What sets the Christians faith apart from all other religions?
3. According to these verses, how does someone become a Christians? How do they live as a Christian?
4. Read Galatians 3:1-14. What were the blessings the Galatians experienced by simple faith in Jesus? What were the consequences of relying on their actions (works of the law) instead of simple faith in Jesus? What does trusting in anything besides simple faith in Jesus to do our relationship with God?
5. Read Romans 3:21-31. The only way anyone is justified before God is by faith in Jesus. That means there is no room for boasting about what we have done or who we are. How does the gospel bring peace to our racially charged culture where some ethnic groups claim to be oppressed by others and some superior to others?