

Forgetting Those Things ***Philippians 3:1-14***

Welcome back and here we go! Today we will continue in Chapter 3 and finish the block we started last week!

Philippians 3:1-14

- 1) What stands out to you?

Last week we talked about not having confidence in the flesh, meaning beware of those things that give us an artificial sense of security and well being --- a foundation built on wealth, power, privilege or position. Paul --- of all people --- had all of these things --- everything a person could want or need to be considered successful. In *verses 5 and 6*, Paul lays out his credentials. But, then in *verses 7 and 8* he qualifies the worth of these things. He worked and studied a lifetime. His entire life was dedicated to these very things until one day!!!

Acts 8:1-3 and 9:1-6

Paul met Jesus, and suddenly everything changes for him. Now fast forward, he is in prison, writing this:

Philippians 3:7-8

- 2) What does it mean to suffer the loss of things for Christ?

Typically, suffering connotes loss. Giving up something is a voluntary loss, but why would a person give up power, wealth and peer esteem, especially after working so hard for it? I mean what exactly is Paul giving up? We could start by saying he has given up his right to himself, meaning his own ideas. Everything before was built up using H.V.P. (Human Viewpoint) Paul said he had a righteousness of his own.

Philippians 3:8-11

- 3) What is righteousness found in the law?

You know that is a pretty easy question. How about instead,

- 4) How do you suffer with Christ in the fellowship and be conformed to His death?

On first blush, you may not feel like you suffer at all, or maybe you feel like that is all you do --- suffer in this life.

But to be conformed to Christ's death means I have died to the world and been resurrected into a life of service. I suffer the loss of my right to choose my own path. There is a path already laid out for me, by Jesus. But "I must die to myself to be born again", means to start a new life! Not everything I have built up is compatible with my new life!

Paul says, he counts everything as rubbish! So, does that mean everything is worthless? No, we will use all of our knowledge, but it is now for a different purpose. When you walk in newness of life, you are living a resurrected life.

Philippians 3:12-14

5) What are we supposed to be forgetting?

How about all your mistakes? Pride will remind you of your mistakes and how you don't deserve to be forgiven ----- like persecuting the church, for instance.

Give up your right to hate yourself for past failures. You get to suffer the loss of those things as well. Your sin is not resurrected. Rather it is buried.

Romans 3:21-28 and 6:1-4

We are supposed to stop trusting in old H.V.P. ways of thinking. We are equally supposed to stop NOT trusting God for forgiveness.

You are born again! To what? Look the same? No.

In ***Philippians 3:12-14*** Paul says "push forward". He says I haven't arrived yet. But, holding on to the past is not an option. Are you stagnant, stationary, at a plateau, or are you moving forward?

6) How are you growing and or pressing forward in ministry?

Do not let your knowledge of success or your failures, hold you back.

7) Personal question: Who are you serving. Who is serving you?

Suffer loss

Next week: ***Philippians 3:15-21***