Grow Group Study – Philippians Week 3

###  Summary

Paul exhorts us to rejoice in the Lord. His very next thought is to look out for false teachers who were teaching that you could be righteous before God based on your ability in keeping the Law. Paul knows from his own experience that when you trust in your own performance it moves you out of Christ-righteousness into self-righteousness.

So, Paul draws on his personal experience to urge the Philippians to trust in the righteousness that is theirs by faith in Christ that they might enjoy their relationship with God, experience His power in His life and have the motivation to press on because of the assurance of God’s favor.

**Big Idea:**
The joy of knowing Christ by faith.
**Fallen Condition Focus:**
We miss out on the joy and power of knowing Christ when we put our confidence in our own righteousness and not his.
**Christ-Centered Solution:**
Christ provides us with his perfect righteousness by faith so that we might know him and the power of his resurrection.

### Explore – Read 3:1-11 [Glorying in Jesus Through Faith]

1. (vs.2) Who are the “dogs”, “evildoers” and “those who mutilate the flesh”? How are they contrasted with the Philippians?

2. (vs.3-4) What does it mean to “put no confidence in the flesh”?

3. (vs.5-8) Look over Paul’s credentials. He mentions that if performance was the answer to right standing with God, then Paul considered that his “gain”. But why does he now count them as loss & rubbish?

4. (vs.9) What does it mean to be “found in” Christ? How is this related to being righteous?

5. (vs.10) Paul says the ultimate purpose of being righteous is so that he can know Christ and the power of his resurrection. What does he mean by these things?

6. (vs.11) What is the resurrection of the dead?

### Explore – Read 3:12-16 [The Joyful Perseverance That Comes From Assurance]

1. (vs.12-16) Paul states that he hasn’t attained, arrived, or apprehended. What is he talking about?

### Apply

1.  What things would you count as rubbish for the sake of Christ?

2.  How have you seen placing confidence in self rather than Christ affect your joy in Christ, perseverance in Christ, or your relationship with him?

### Part 2

### Summary

Paul has just called the Philippians to “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” His thoughts about the future have now led him to reflect on the fact that not all of his readers may make it to that Day. So, he takes a few sentences to urge them to “stand firm in the Lord”.

He knows not all of his readers will persevere because he has already seen many fall away and become “enemies of the cross”. So, Paul strengthens them by reminding them that they have a Savior who is coming soon to bring them to their heavenly home where they are already citizens.

**Big Idea:**Perseverance in the faith.
**Fallen Condition Focus:**
Indulge in the best this world has to offer because that’s as good as it gets.
**Christ-Centered Solution:**
We can enjoy life here and now, but the best is yet to come as citizens of heaven through hope in our coming Savior Jesus Christ.

### Explore – Read 3:17-21

1. (vs.17) Paul gives two commands in this passage, what are they?

2. (vs.18-19) Who are the “enemies of the cross”. What is one way Paul describes those who are enemies of the cross? How is that contrasted with believers?

3. (vs.19) Paul says the enemies of the cross of Christ have their minds “set on earthly things”. Obviously, we all have to think about getting an education, earning a living, finding a spouse, taking care of our possessions. So, what is the difference between having a mind “set” on earthly things versus just thinking about them in order to be responsible?

4. (vs.20-21) What are the 3 parts to our lives? Why is it important to always remember that we have 3 parts to us that have different stages of redemption? How might forgetting this contribute to someone not persevering in their walk with Christ?

### Apply

1.  What good things are you still trying to fill your belly with, that is keeping you from hoping in the great things of heaven?

2. How does it affect you to know that you are a citizen of heaven and not this earth?