

To Gain Christ
Philippians 3:1-8

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I. Rejoice. *Philippians 3:1*

When we believe the Lord is in control of all things we will be filled with joy because we know our good Father is not out to _____ us, through life's circumstances.

- We don't rejoice because of tragedies in life, but we _____ God is doing things in and through our circumstances, and He even turns evil into good, for those who love Christ.

Fear and negativity are _____ of faith in Jesus because both of these things hinder our trust and reliance on the Lord. ***Hebrews 11:6***

II. Trying to earn God's favor. *Philippians 3:2-3*

The Lord loved the Gentiles so much that the prophet Isaiah declared that the Messiah was going to come to be a light to the Gentiles so, they could find _____ in the Lord. ***Isaiah 42:6***

- Circumcision was the cutting off of the flesh as a sign and covenant with the Lord. It also represents the fact that God wants to be Lord of even the most _____ parts of our lives.

Worshipping "in spirit," means to engage your whole heart, while _____ the Lord. ***John 4:24***

III. It is all dung. *Philippians 3:4-8*

Paul was one of the best-educated men of that day when it came to the Mosaic Law and Judaism. He was more _____ than the legalists who were harassing the Philippian Christians. ***Colossians 2:20-23***

- The word "***rubbish***" in the original language only appears once in the New Testament and is better translated as _____.

Paul communicated that even if a person lost all worldly prestige, wealth, and fame; a personal relationship with Jesus Christ was the _____ point of any Christian's life.

IV. Practical Application.

1. To Gain Christ, we consider our _____ as loss.
2. To Gain Christ, we make Christ our _____.
3. To Gain Christ, we must have _____ in Christ. ***Hebrews 11:6***
4. To Gain Christ we continually cultivate our _____ for Him.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read ***Philippians 3:1***. Why is it ***safe*** for Christians to rejoice? What is dangerous about being a complainer, unthankful, or simply negative as a Christian? (see the three points of point I. in the sermon note sheet).
Hebrews 13:8, Hebrews 11:1-6, Romans 8:28, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19
2. Read ***Philippians 3:2-3***. Discuss the three terms Paul uses here of people to beware of. What was the Lord's original plan for Gentile people regarding salvation?
Romans 1:16, Isaiah 42:6
3. Who did Paul say were true circumcised people?
Galatians 2:11-14, Colossians 2:11, Psalm 145:3, John 4:24
4. Read ***Philippians 3:4-8***. How was Paul more qualified than most other people? How did Paul describe his achievements apart from Christ? How did Paul describe present sufferings in
Romans 8:18?
Colossians 2:20-23, Acts 22:3-11, Matthew 16:25
5. Read ***Romans 10:9-10*** and discuss the four points to the Practical Application portion of the sermon note sheet.