



## **April 21<sup>st</sup> Sermon Questions**

### **Clarifying Our Life in the Gospel**

Philippians 3: 1-16

Icebreaker Questions: What's your superpower? Share one thing you're really proud of or excel at.

Discussion Questions: **Read** the scripture verses above.

1. As far as you understand it, what was the difference in the first-century ancient Near East between Judaism, Judaizing Christianity (which Paul is criticizing in this passage), and true Christianity?
2. When Paul writes of what he used to consider "gain" (v.7), what does he have in mind? Do you think he is thinking in terms of spiritual gain or of the practical benefits (i.e. the "creaturely comforts") of his former way of life as a Jewish religious leader? Why?
3. What do you think Paul means when he says, "I count everything as loss" (v.8)? In what ways is Paul making a relative, not absolute argument here?
4. Verse 9 uses the word "righteousness" in two different ways. One is so-called righteousness and the other is true righteousness. What's the difference?
5. In his sermon Giorgio said that we sometimes need to draw lines in the sand when people "are messing with the goodness of the Good News." Do you agree? Why or why not?

6. We need not only to be on watch externally but internally as well. What ethnic, geographic, religious, or cultural totems are you trusting in and/or clinging to, and adding to Jesus and the Gospel?
7. Do you ever find yourself keeping mental scorecards against other people, believing that you are better than them or a *real* Christian because you do or don't do some practice, believe or don't believe some doctrine? Be honest. What's on your scorecard?
8. In what ways is your mental scorecard hypocritical? In other words, what behaviors do you criticize in other people, and what behaviors of your own do you excuse? Are there any people in your life to whom you need to confess that you have held a mental scorecard against them?
9. Which of these additions do you need to resist, so that you will "put no confidence in the flesh" (v.3)? In other words, what would it look like for you to put those things that you are tempted to put in the "gain" column into the "loss" column?
10. How does boasting and glorying in Jesus free us from taking confidence in the flesh, scorekeeping, judgment, and considering ourselves superior to others?

11. In this passage, Paul is protecting the good news of Jesus from unhealthy additions that turn the gospel into legalism. However, he is not advocating for a gospel-minimalism that doesn't require biblical obedience, a pursuit of holiness, and growth in sanctification. What does a pursuit of righteousness look like that flows from and is a response to the gospel? How is it different from one that seeks to supplement God's grace and/or earn God's favor by works?
12. Are any of your additions that are actually good and healthy, but you simply need to approach or view them differently in light of the gospel?
13. Paul speaks in v. 11 of the final resurrection. What does it look like practically to be shaped by our future, as opposed to our past or present?
14. What's your takeaway from our discussion tonight? What do you need to do this week to follow Jesus, be transformed by Jesus, and/or participate in the mission of Jesus?