

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Read Philippians 3:1-11 Make 2-3 observations of what you see in the text and note any questions you have. Try to answer your questions by using information you find in the passage. Then answer some or all of the questions below.

Paul names a number of “reasons for confidence” in verses 5-6.

- Are these things good or bad in and of themselves?
- When/how do such things become negative?

Brian shared a story about his trophy. What are some of your “trophies”?

- Are there things (even good things) you boast about overtly or indirectly?
- Do you ever feel spiritually superior to others? How? Why?
- Do you have your own “litmus test” for people being “true” Christians?
- What would it look like to trade your trophies for the person of Jesus?

Paul is concerned about people adding requirements for Christian citizenship beyond membership in the Messiah (Christ Jesus).

- Why is this such a threat?
- Why might some Jews think that conversion to Judaism is necessary for non-Jews to participate in the Messiah and the covenant with Abraham?
- What “requirements” do some people add to the gospel these days?
- Where have you seen or experienced this?
- Where have you seen or experienced legalism or false gospels in society?
- Where have you seen or experienced these things in the church?

How are you personally tempted to put confidence in your own flesh instead of putting your full confidence in the person of King Jesus?

How do you respond to Paul’s statement in vs8-9 that knowing Messiah Jesus as Lord (King) is worth more than everything else put together?

- What does it mean specifically to know Jesus as Lord?

How does suffering for Christ (vs10) enable us to know Christ more?

- How might this challenge our assumptions about suffering?
- What does it mean to “participate in his sufferings”?

Why does Paul place his hope in the resurrection instead of in heaven?

- How does the hope of your resurrection encourage you?

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