

Community Group Discussion Questions

October 29, 2017 – *Joyful Dependence* – Philippians 3:1-11

Big Idea: Entrusting yourself completely to Jesus is the only way to have real joy and safety.

Key Verse: ***“For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.”*** Philippians 3:3

Outline: Two Keys to Joyful Dependence:

1. Reject Self-Reliant Religion

- Alert for False Teachers who preach “believe in yourself” and “You can do it; God can help.” (v. 2)
- Acknowledging that our best Qualities and Efforts are Garbage (vv. 3-8)

2. Rely on Jesus as the only Source of Life

- Our Happiness – Delight in Jesus as the Ultimate Treasure (v. 8)
- Our Hope – Depend completely on Jesus’ Righteousness (v. 9)
- Our Help – Depend completely on Jesus’ Resurrection Power (vv. 10-11)

Get Started:

1. Do you find it easy or hard to trust people? Why? Have you ever done a trust fall exercise? How did that go? If you had been the “victim” up front with Pastor Darin, what would you have done?

Get your Mind into the Word:

2. Read Philippians 3:1-11
3. What do you think it means to “rejoice in the Lord” (v. 1) and “glory in Christ Jesus” (v. 3)?
4. What does the alternative of “putting confidence in the flesh” look like?

CONTEXT: Paul’s warning about “the dogs... who mutilate the flesh” is a reference to the Judaizers who would come in after Paul had planted a church and mostly agree with his message, but ADD one little thing to complete the “Christian” experience: obedience to the Law of Moses. Many of the early believers were Jewish by background so this was the path of the familiar and comfortable (to them) that was unfamiliar and difficult for Gentile believers. It also resulted in an attitude that those with a Jewish background and traditional habits were superior to the Gentile newcomers. Paul consistently rebuked this whole mindset, even calling it in Galatians “a different gospel, which is really no gospel at all.” The reason he approached it that strongly is his message here: what is the object of your faith? Are you truly and fully trusting in Jesus or is our confidence – even a little bit – in something else, like yourselves...?

5. What does Paul mean by the “gains” and “losses” he describes in vv. 7-8?

Get the Word into your Life:

6. What is your “at least I have... at least I am...” that gives you confidence in yourself?
In other words, what are you tempted to boast in or glory in apart from Christ?
7. Using the illustration of leaning forward in your chair and bearing some of your own weight in your own strength, how much would you say you tend to trust in Jesus and how much do you tend to trust in yourself?
8. Of the three applications - making Jesus your Happiness, your Hope (of salvation) and your Help – which comes easiest for you and which is more difficult?
9. How can we pray for you this week?

Verse of the Month:

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life.”

Philippians 2:14-16a