

## **Philippians 3:1–11 Study Questions**

### **Read Philippians 3:1-3**

How do you react to the statement, “Joy is a choice, not simply an emotion?”

Paul mentions “joy” 16 times in this letter. How is Paul able to rejoice in the midst of so many problems... jail, threat of death, enemies, illness, etc.?

What lessons does this have for us?

Paul is quite harsh with those he considers “those dogs” who were insisting that Gentiles become Jewish prior to becoming Christians. What was the background of these statements in vs. 2, 3?

Since circumcision was required in the Old Testament why does Paul call these people “mutilators of the flesh?”

In what ways might we be guilty of trying to “earn our way into heaven?”

### **Read Philippians 3:4-6**

What did the things Paul used to prove his Jewish heritage mean to him and his audience?

... circumcised on the eighth day?

... of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews?

... in regard to the Law, a Pharisee?

... as for zeal, persecuting the church?

... as for legalistic righteousness, faultless?

What kind of things would be on a list of Christian accomplishments today?

Which of your achievements would it be hardest for you to give up?

How does Paul’s privileged background relate to his message of not being saved by keeping the Old Testament Law?

### **Read Philippians 3:7-11**

Paul imagines a balance scale on which he weighs his accomplishments against the cost and value of serving Christ. In what ways have you had to weigh values or accomplishments that you were laying aside if you gave your all to Jesus Christ?

What does it mean to you to have “a righteousness not your own,” but one found in Jesus?

How does information in vs. 10, 11 relate to your Christian faith and hope?

... to know Christ and the power of His resurrection?

... the fellowship of sharing in His suffering?

... becoming like Him in His death?

... to attain to the resurrection from the dead?

In what way does this information about Paul touch your life and strengthen your desire to serve Christ more fully?

(Questions are based on the New International Version of the Bible. Other translations may add insight into the answers to the questions.)