

# Adult Bible Discovery- October 11, 2020

## For Starters:

*Take a few minutes and think about what would be on your personal spiritual resume?  
Perhaps you could list your spiritual gifts or volunteer service.  
What goals and objectives do you have as a follower of Jesus?*

## Read Philippians 3:4b-11

Paul has previously stated that if the believers in Philippi are able to follow the example of Jesus and unite with one another in humility, he will be able to boast on the day of Christ that he did not run or labor in vain. For Paul, any such boasting or confidence that believers have in their relationship with God is based solely on the work of Christ and not on any acts or works that we have done. As support for this claim, Paul draws on the example of his own former life as a Pharisee to show how rigid adherence to the law does not result in righteousness. We are saved by grace, and life Christ life is lived by grace through faith.

- The “Judaizers” (a group of individuals who followed Paul on his journeys) sought to convince Gentile converts to submit to the Jewish legalistic rituals in order to be saved. Why did this bother Paul?
- Maybe not to the same extent as the Judaizers, but do we too ask new converts unlike us to adopt any of our rituals in order to be “really part of the body?”
- Why did Paul share his impressive spiritual resume? How many of you have one?
- After meeting Jesus, how does Paul describe the monumental change that took place in his own religious attitudes and actions?
- What is the difference between trying to adhere to a religious system and trusting in an actual person?
- Why would Paul say, and anyone desire, to share in Jesus’ sufferings?

Paul had blood on his hands and a religious diploma on his wall. After seeing Jesus and becoming blind, Paul saw through the fake news he had distributed about his own value in God’s sight based upon his behavior. Paul’s joy was profound, as he intends ours to be. The joyful saint is the sinner who knows the severity of guilt and the immensity of grace. Sin is not diminished, or is God’s ability to forgive it. Saints dwell in grace not guilt. That is why Paul quits promoting himself, admits his faults and rather than hiding, or denying them gives them to Jesus and permits himself the humility to consider all his accomplishments as rubbish compared to what Jesus accomplished.

- How do we know Jesus? How do we get to know Him better?
- How does/has the church at times done a great disservice to new believers, new members, or long-time ones, by making it appear that what is important isn’t what Christ has done but what we do?
- What does it mean to share in Christ’s sufferings?
- How would you explain to a moralist that one doesn’t make it to heaven by living a “good” life?

Paul seeks to keep the main thing, the main thing. We like to major in the minors. Many people have slipped into boasting about self or at least expecting others to attain the same level of spirituality before there is equity or even equality.

- *What does Paul say is the main thing? (See 1 Corinthians 2:2)*

We count as rubbish all the things that we do, even those things that we think are good, right and salutary. This is a hard place to be especially if you feel you are in a place of preferred status or have the moral or theological high ground (as the Judiazers did). It is important for us to realize that the things that we might regard as advantage or gain can actually be loss for us if they stand in the way of our knowledge and trust in Jesus or in the way of others to know Jesus for the first time.

Paul is willing to say that his entire life up until Jesus met him on the road to Damascus is rubbish and worthless. The most important thing is Jesus. If the three most important things in real estate are location, location, location, then the three most important things for Christians are Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

**Prayer:** *Lord so often we get distracted by things of this world. Help us to look to you for all things and to keep our focus and attention on the Christ of Calvary and his power give in the open tomb and not on our own merit ore worthiness. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*