

In God We Trust
Paul, Follow His Voice
Sunday, August 1, 2021

Philippians 3: 1-9 NLT

Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. ²Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. ³For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, ⁴though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! ⁵I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. ⁷I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ.

1. **Committed to God**

Philippians 3:5 I am a real Hebrew, demanding the strictest obedience to Jewish Law.

Acts 9:2 If he found any belonging to the Way he took them prisoner.

2. **Living Out of Biblical Law**

Philippians 3:6 As for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

Genesis 2:9 In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

3. **Living Out of Divine Encounter**

Philippians 3:8 Everything else is worthless compared with the infinite value of *knowing* Christ Jesus my Lord.

John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may *know* You God and Jesus Christ whom You sent.

Conclusion: We serve a living, personal God who desires for us to encounter His Almighty Presence daily. We do that when we learn to live out of our heart, for He dwells there. Let us like Paul, be willing to shift from living out of biblical law to encountering Jesus Christ and His Power in us. May our zeal be focused on following His voice.

LIFE GROUP LESSON
Paul- Follow His Voice
Week of August 1 – August 7, 2021

Ice Breaker: How can solely living by the Law hinder your faith?

Read Philippians 3: 1-9.

1. What is the first thing Paul tells the Philippians to do? Why?
2. How did Paul say he and new believers worshipped? (v.3)
3. Did they rely on their own goodness/righteousness or someone else? (v.3)
4. By whose standards would Paul be appealing to? (vs. 4-5) Have you ever thought like that? Has someone treated you as lesser because of their background vs. yours?
5. What was Paul zealous about? (v.6) How can this still be played out today in the Church?
6. By focusing so intently on the Law what did Paul (then Saul) miss in God's greater plan? *Who did He miss?*
7. What was Paul saying was worthless? (v.7) Does this mean our accomplishments have no value? What did he truly mean?
8. What does Paul compare all other attainable things to? (v.8)
9. What does this tell you about the importance of seeking to know Christ as *your* Lord and Savior? What does "knowing" mean?
10. What did Paul learn about where his righteousness comes? (v.9)
11. Read Galatians 1: 15-18. What did Paul do when Jesus was revealed to him? Who did He seek to learn from? Would he consider himself a master or beginning student? Why?
12. How do you approach God and His teachings?
13. Read Genesis 2: 8-9, 15-17. What does God say about eating from the Tree of knowledge of good and evil? How does this equate to trying to live by the Law? What will that lead to? Read 2 Corinthians 3:6.
14. Read John 17:3. What is eternal life? How can we truly know God and Jesus Christ? Through the Law or divine encounter?

Point to ponder: Paul was committed to God when he was living as Saul, but his great zeal for the Law was actually hurting the very people Jesus came to save. Jesus calls us to follow Him, which means we need to listen for His voice. He is a living God who is still speaking to us every day as our master, teacher and friend.