

## Sermon Discussion Questions: Philippians 3:2-11

### Reformation Sunday October 28th, 2018

1. What in the sermon encouraged you, comforted you, challenged you, or informed you?
  
2. Read Philippians 3:2-6. What does it mean to put confidence in the flesh? How would you know if you are doing that?
  
3. Paul said that his righteousness under the law was blameless. Much like Paul, we build our own confidence on how righteous we are in any given area. Below are a number of different life pursuits and righteous achievements that we may build our identity on (Taken from *Gospel Centered Life* by Robert Thune & Will Walker). Circle which ones may apply to you.
  - a. Job Righteousness: I'm a hard worker, so God will reward me.
  - b. Family Righteousness: Because I "do things right" as a parent, I'm more godly than parents who can't control their kids.
  - c. Theological Righteousness: I have good theology. God prefers me over those who have bad theology.
  - d. Intellectual Righteousness: I am better read, more articulate, and more culturally savvy than others, which obviously makes me superior.
  - e. Schedule Righteousness: I am self-disciplined and rigorous in my time management, which makes me more mature than others.
  - f. Flexibility Righteousness: In a world that's busy, I'm flexible and relaxed. I always make time for others. Shame on those who don't!
  - g. Mercy Righteousness: I care about the poor and disadvantaged the way everyone else should.
  - h. Legalistic Righteousness: I don't drink, smoke, or chew, or date girls who do. Too many Christians just aren't concerned about holiness these days.
  - i. Financial Righteousness: I manage money wisely and stay out of debt. I'm not like those materialistic Christians who can't control their spending.
  - j. Political Righteousness: If you really love God, you'll vote for my candidate.
  - k. Tolerance Righteousness: I am open-minded and charitable toward those who don't agree with me. In fact, I'm a lot like Jesus that way!
  
4. Read Philippians 3:8-10. How does realizing Jesus' surpassing greatness affect our life pursuits? How is knowing Jesus more valuable than pursuing sinful temptations?
  
5. Read Philippians 3:9. How does meditating on our perfect record giving by Jesus' righteous life imputed to us keep us from being defeated by past failures and keep us moving forward in growth? See quote on the back.

“We become obsessed with our *active* righteousness and are terrified by its imperfections. But the real evil is that we trust our own power to be righteous and will not lift up our eyes to see what Christ has done *for* us...So the troubled conscience has no cure for its desperation and feeling of unworthiness unless it takes hold of the forgiveness of sins by *grace*, offered free of charge in Jesus Christ, which is this passive or Christian righteousness...If I tried to fulfill the law myself, I could not trust in what I had accomplished, neither could it stand up to the judgment of God. So...*I rest only upon the righteousness of Christ...which I do not produce but receive, God the Father freely giving it to us through Jesus Christ.*”

Martin Luther’s Preface to Galatians (Abridgment and Paraphrase by Tim Keller)