

RESILIENT



IMPRESSING GOD

Philippians 3:1 – 11
Pastor Bill Heydorn
August 8/9, 2020

MESSAGE NOTES

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by His Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh — though I myself have reasons for such confidence. — Philippians 3:1 – 4a

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 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 righteousness based on the law, faultless. — Philippians 3:4b – 6

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. — Philippians 3:7

What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. — Philippians 3:8 – 9

Three Reasons why trying to impress God will leave us empty.

1. Impressing God is fruitless.
2. Impressing is a one-way relationship.
3. Impressing is a roller-coaster ride of a life.

What can we do?

1. Resolve to make Jesus a priority.
2. Refuse to build upon past failures and successes.
3. Surrender our desire to impress.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What part of the message this weekend stuck out to you? Why?
- Have a few people in your group share the reading Philippians 3:1 – 9
- What verses impact you most from this section? Why?
- How can our lives look like a roller-coaster when trying to impress God?
- What does it mean to put “confidence in the flesh?”
- Paul listed a few “qualifications” that he could have put his self-confidence in in verses 4 – 6. What qualities do people like to put on their list of “qualifications” to show self-confidence?
- Do achievements cause us to cling to Christ’s righteousness or our own? Explain.
- Read verses 7 & 8, when you think about your life, can you say the same thing about your achievements? Share your thoughts.
- Discuss the differences between being a religious person and knowing Jesus.
- Bill suggested three things we can do to move from impressing God. Which of those is the most difficult for you and why?
- What is one takeaway from the message that you can apply to your life this week?