

## Philippians, Chapter Three, Lesson Two

REJECTING THE WORLD Philippians 3:7-11

### STIMULATE

\*\* In our study together last week we learned from the apostle Paul a three fold description of Christians, or those who are of the "true circumcision". Do you recall that description?

- 1) They "worship in the Spirit of God" (John 4:23)
- 2) They "glory in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 6:14)
- 3) They "put no confidence in the flesh (Romans 7:18)

\*\* Were you able to experience "**Rejoicing in the Lord**" as you lived your life in accordance to those three principles?

As we heed the instruction of God's Word, it will always produce joy in our heart. Christ has placed His joy in us and desires for us to experience it everyday to the fullest measure.  
cf. John 15:11

### MOTIVATE

\*\* One of the areas in the life of a Christian that has been transformed by his or her salvation is their value system. How did we evaluate the "things" of this world prior to our salvation and what has happened to the value of those "things" since we became Christians? Today, Paul is going to show us the reason for "**Rejecting the World**" when we compare the value of what it has to offer against the value of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord. Please open your Bibles to Philippians 3:7-11 and let's enjoy this passage together.

Read passage (V.7-11)

Opening Prayer

### *Rejecting the World*

### INVESTIGATE

**V. 7** \*\* As we begin looking at our passage for today, to what "things" is Paul referring which had proven to produce a form of gain for him?

His seven religious credentials from last week. cf. V.5-6

\*\* How could a long list of religious efforts be considered to be gain in the fleshly mind?

If you are going to have to earn your way into God's favor, or earn your way to Heaven, then all the religious "stuff" would be a gain in that it allegedly brings you closer to the goal.

\*\* In the Christian's life today, do we have a list of things that we could do in the flesh, thinking that it is gaining favor with God?

Absolutely - those things which can be a part of genuine worship, in spirit and in truth, can be falsified in the flesh if what we are trying to do is prove ourselves to God or earn our own way.

For example:

- 1) Attending church
- 2) Giving an offering
- 3) Praying
- 4) Reading the Bible
- 5) Attending a study
- 6) Helping the needy

Any or all of those legitimate forms of worship can be falsified as merely fleshly religious efforts to try and earn our own righteousness before God.

\*\* When the apostle ponders the cause of Christ, how does it effect his evaluation of those things that he once considered to be gain?

He now counts those very same things to be loss! Not merely worthless, but actually harmful. The word that Paul uses for "loss" is *zemia* which literally meant "damage". Those fleshly religious efforts were harmful to Paul and are today to anyone thinking they can make it on their own.

\*\* Paul has just demonstrated the most radical change in a value system that anyone could ever possibly experience. A full 180 degree reversal of everything he thought to be important and he made this change for "the sake of Christ". How important was Christ to Paul?

Galatians 2:20 "...it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..."

Galatians 6:14 "...may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." Philippians 1:21 "For to me, to live is Christ..."

Colossians 3:1 "...keep seeking the things above, where Christ is..."

1Timothy 1:16 "...Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience..."

2Timothy 1:12 "...for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able..."

The apostle Paul was totally committed to Jesus Christ, as well as totally dependent upon Him!

**V. 8** \*\* As Paul has re-evaluated all of his past religious efforts; it prompts a deeper, even broader value judgment...what is it?

Paul says not just my religious efforts, but "all things" have come to be "*zemia*" or loss in view of "the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord". The idea of a "surpassing" value was one that was to be held above, to rise above or to be superior.

\*\* What were some of the other things that Paul was willing to give up in light of the surpassing value of knowing Christ?

His tradition, ancestry, orthodoxy, conformity to the Law, his high position among the Jews, his wealth and prestigious social status.

\*\* Would you be willing to count your old value system of this world and your life in it as a loss (even harmful), when compared to the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ?

As we mature in Christ, we need to continually adjust our value system. The stuff of this world should not have a grip on our hearts. All see - Mark 8:34-38 (V.36)

\*\* Back in Philippians 3:8, Paul goes on to say that he has already lost all the "stuff" that used to be important to him. How does he now evaluate it?

It has become "rubbish", skubalon lit. garbage, waste or manure. That is what you could call a major shift in value systems!

\*\* Why does Paul draw a connection between losing all things, counting them as rubbish and being able to "gain Christ"?

While still loving this world and holding its value system, you cannot gain Christ! No one is able to serve two masters. cf. Matthew 6:24, 1John 2:15

**V. 9** \*\* What is the benefit of gaining Christ anyway, when it comes down to the final analysis, where will we be found?

Paul and all true Christians are "found in Him". cf. Colossians 3:3-4

\*\* Doesn't all of that religious effort create our own righteousness?

Absolutely not! He continues, "...not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law..."  
cf. Romans 3:19-20, Galatians 2:15-16, Galatians 3:11

\*\* If a Christian's righteousness does not come by doing a bunch of religious activity, from where does it come?

"...through faith in Christ..."

"...[it] comes from God on the basis of faith..."

cf. 2Corinthians 5:21

**V.10** \*\* The apostle now lays out for us the four-fold effect upon the true child of God as he or she places their faith in Christ, is continually "**Rejecting the World**" by leaving behind the rubbish and embraces a totally new value system. What is it?

1) "...that I may know Him..." cf. Ephesians 4:13

2) that I may know, "...the power of His resurrection..." cf. 1Corinthians 6:14, Ephesians 1:18-21

3) that I may know, "...the fellowship of His sufferings..." cf. Colossians 1:24, John 15:20

4) "...being conformed to His death..." cf. Romans 6:4-11 (All see)

**V.11** \*\* Now, back in Philippians 3:11, what is the outcome of this four-fold effect upon the Christian's life?

"...in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

cf. Mark 12:18-24 - The Sadducees did not believe in the Resurrection.

Romans 8:22-23 - The redemption of the body.

John 5:28-29 - The resurrection of life.

Revelation 20:5-6 - The first resurrection.

(Second death: Revelation 20:14)

There is no question that Paul lived out his Christian life "**Rejecting the World**" and its value system, while at the same time being very thankful that he will be part of the resurrection because of what Christ has accomplished on our behalf!

We would do well to follow his example!

**EXTRICATE**

\*\* What two areas of Paul's pre-Christian life did he end up re-evaluating as harmful to his soul?

- 1) His fleshly religious effort
- 2) His possessions and position that could be used to draw his affection away from the surpassing value of knowing Christ.

### **DELINEATE**

\*\* Given his new Godly value system, what were the things that proved to be of surpassing value in Paul's life?

- 1) Knowing Jesus Christ! (V. 8)
- 2) Righteousness by faith. (V. 9)
- 3) Knowing the power of His resurrection. (V.10)
- 4) Partaking in His suffering. (V.10)
- 5) Being conformed to His death. (V.10)

### **EVALUATE**

\*\* If we were to share Paul's new value system, what impact would it have on the everyday events of our life?

We would be more stable, being less concerned for the "things" of this world and more concerned for how we might be pleasing to our Savior.

\*\* Why is that so difficult?

Because the world around us is very visible and demanding - it is always pressing in against us, trying to disrupt the life we desire to live for the "sake of Christ".

Remember - 1John 2:15, and then verse 16!

### **ACTIVATE**

\*\* It is no small thing to change your value system! As you mature in Christ, you will find the need for adjustment reoccurring your whole life long. Just do not become afraid to make the necessary adjustments when the Lord makes it clear that it is time to remove something from your life or to add something to your life, that you might become more conformed to His glorious image.

Lord help us to remain focused upon You and Your expressed will from the Word of God, that we might be "**Rejecting the World**" and its value system while we grow even more in our love for Jesus Christ!

Closing prayer