



## **THOUGHTS FROM THE MESSAGE**

- ICEBREAKER - Share a moment in your story when you were astounded, dumbfounded, surprised, and inexplicably overwhelmed by Jesus goodness to you.

**Philippians 3:4-11** 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.

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 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.

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

- What does Paul mean when he says a “Hebrew of Hebrews”? Was he “faultless”?
- The theme this weekend was “Christ Crazyed!” Jason gave a summation of Paul’s meaning in Phil. 3:4-11, saying “Everything else is crap compared to Christ!”

Jesus was unparalleled, unchallenged, unprecedented, unrivaled in his standing. Jesus was matchless, boundless, and peerless...in a league of his own. Jesus was sovereign, sufficient, supreme...above and beyond all else. Jesus was Lord of Lord, God of gods, King of kings. Jesus was Paul’s highness, Paul’s majesty, Paul’s excellency. Jesus was worth his life and his death. Jesus was worth his next step and his next breath. Jesus was worth it and worthy in all senses of the word. He was completely other in a class of his own, by himself as himself. He was everything; he was Paul’s all in all; he was his reason and reward. He was the alpha and omega, the author and finisher, the first and the foremost. As Oswald Chambers said “my utmost for his highest!”

- How crazy about Christ are you? As you heard the message this weekend, where would you rate or compare to Paul on a scale of 1-10 your obsession with Jesus’ life and work?
- Practically, what is one bit of “refuse” or “garbage” blocking Christ from first place in you?



## QUESTIONS FROM WEEKDAY READING (pgs 73 - 106)

### WEEKLY QUESTIONS:

1. *What's something you noticed for the first time?*
2. *What questions did you have?*
3. *Was there anything that bothered you?*
4. *What did you learn about loving God?*
5. *What did you learn about loving others?*

### Take of old self, put on new self | (top) pg 202

- In *Colossians 3*, Paul lists some vices of the Old Self (sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed [idolatry], and anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language, and lying)
- The next paragraph, he describes some of the virtues of our New Self (Holiness, Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness, Patience, Empathy (bearing with), Forgiveness, Peace and Love)
- **Select one thing from the list of vices you need to take off, and one thing from the list of virtues you need to put on in the empty space.** Share your decision and commitment with your group.

### Emptiness filled to Fullness | (bottom) pg 209

- *Ephesians 3* declares the extraordinary, fathomless love of Jesus Christ for you, and Paul cries out his prayer that we would “grasp” and “know this love that surpasses knowledge.” Explain to your group what you believe “being filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” looks like in a person’s life. How fully do you know this love?
- Directly following this paragraph, Paul talks about how God can do “immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine.” What - more - than you can ask or imagine are you afraid to imagine, let alone ask for? How does this connect back to the fullness of God?

### Anxiety to Prayer | (top) pg 225:

- Read *Philippians 4:4-7* together. Pray with thanksgiving for and with each other to close.