**No Matter What – A Study In The Book Of Philippians**

**~Philippians 3:1-11 – Determining What Really Matters~**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* It is communion Sunday and we want to remember what Jesus did by dying and rising from the dead.
* We want to look at **Phil. 3:1-11** and talk about determining what really matters in life.
* Note the word “finally” in **vs. 1**. It has the idea of what comes next, what remains, the rest of what Paul wants to say. He transitions his thoughts and directs the reader there.

**Four Thoughts To Take With Us**

**Rejoicing helps to keep moving forward – vs. 1**

* Joy is not based on circumstances, people, or situations. It is connected to our relationship with God.
* Joy is an inner calm knowing that no matter what is going on, we can rest in God’s unending grace, love and care.
* Rejoicing in the Lord focuses on Who He is. This helps us not to be controlled by things around us.
* Paul’s words were for the safety of his readers.

**Be on guard for those who try to steal our joy – vss. 2-3**

* There are three groups of people who Paul warns us about in **vs. 2**.
* The word translated “look out” means “to guard against, be alert.” It is a command.
* The **first** group we are to be aware of are the “dogs.” It means a person of “impure mind, a religious corrupter.” This would mark false teachers or false believers.
* The **second** group is called “evildoers.” These are wicked, bad individuals, as seen in their actions and words. They are corrupt morally and ethically.
* The third group are the “legalists.” We encounter people who try to make us come under manmade rules and beliefs. Cults are like this.
* There are also legalists in churches. They judge others by their “list” of what makes one spiritual.
* **Point:** We are God’s people if we know the Lord **(vs. 3)**. We worship by the leading of the Holy Spirit. The fact that the Holy Spirit lives in us proves we belong to the Lord **(Rom. 8)** and that proof is seen in how we live.

**All we have is because of grace alone – vss. 4-7**

* In these verses Paul shows that no matter who we are or what we do, we cannot earn our way to heaven. If anyone could boast about their own credentials to get to heaven, it would be him.
* In **vs. 5** He mentions being of the tribe of Benjamin. The Benjamites, along with the tribe of Judah, stayed loyal to the Davidic line. The Benjamites were highly regarded in Israel.
* He was educated as a Jew, He was a Pharisee, a keeper of the law to the best of his abilities **(vs. 5)**.
* In **vs. 6** he talks about his zealousness, and how he persecuted the church.
* He kept the law as well as anyone. Note the word “blameless” in **vs. 6**.
* In **vss. 7-10** Paul tells us that all the titles, all the popularity, and religious standing, meant nothing when he came face to face with Jesus.
* Today, some people lean on their knowledge of God, their positions in churches, their popularity, not necessarily to save them, but to prove their spirituality.
* People allow things to get in the way of knowing God.

**Nothing matters more than our relationship with Christ – vss. 8-11**

* **Vs. 8** reminds us that nothing is as important as knowing God.
* We can allow things to take God’s place in our life if not careful: work, hobbies, people, etc.
* In **vs. 8** Paul says that as he analyzed what he just said in **vss. 4-7**, they were as “rubbish” (garbage, worthless) when it came to knowing Christ better.
* In **vss. 9-10** Paul tells us that knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection is what makes us right with God. **Rom. 6** reminds us that we have exchanged our old life for a new one in Christ.
* Paul was willing to suffer for his faith because he knew his future was with God **(vss. 10-11)**.
* Point: We cannot allow anything to get us off-track from knowing and growing in the Lord.