

# ***Personal / Small Group Sermon Study***

## **Joy Through My Priorities**

Week of September 30, 2018 A.D.

Every Christian should be excited about life. God is in the process of transforming our planet from a kingdom of darkness into a kingdom of light. God is up to something big! And, if you are a Christian, he has chosen you to help him to accomplish his purposes. Let's talk about that today.

### **Read Philippians 3:1 – 11**

1. Read verse 1. What does it mean to “rejoice in the Lord”? How often and how do you “rejoice in the Lord”? What are the benefits you receive from doing so? If you do not “rejoice in the Lord”, why not? And, please explain what (if anything) this says about your relationship with Jesus.
2. In verse 2, “mutilators of the flesh” refers to the Jewish practice of circumcision for all Jewish men. Please explain why Christians do not practice circumcision. (Hint: refer to Romans 2:25 – 29 for some help from Paul.)
3. In Romans 2:29, Paul states that true circumcision is “circumcision of the heart.” Read Philippians 3:3. How is “true circumcision” experienced and expressed in the life of a follower of Christ? Please explain your answer.
4. Read verses 7 – 9. Are you willing to (and do you) consider everything – your reputation, your social standing, your money, your possessions – to be “rubbish” so that you may know Jesus as your Lord? Please explain why or why not.
5. Is there (or has there been) anything in your life that you consider loss for the sake of Christ? If not, why not? If so, (a) what is it and (b) why?
6. When Paul says (in verse 8) that he “may gain Christ”, is Paul talking about salvation or about something else? Please explain your answer.

7. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "It is possible for a Christian to know about Christ without really knowing Christ."
  
8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "There is something mentally, emotionally, or spiritually wrong with a person who claims to know Christ but who is not excited about living for Christ."
  
9. Refer to verses 10 – 11. Do all Christians know the power of Jesus' resurrection? Please explain your answer.
  
10. Do you want to know Christ better than you do now? Do you want to know the power of Jesus' resurrection? If not, why not? If so, what do you intend to do in order to make that happen? Please explain.
  
11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "I can honestly say that nothing excites me or motivates me more than my relationship with Jesus."

**Read Galatians 2:20**

12. Please explain how this verse relates to Philippians 3:10 – 11. Do you feel the same way about your relationship with Christ as Paul does about his relationship with Christ? If not, why not? If not, do you want to? If you do not want to, then why not? Please explain your answers.

**Consider:** The Christian life is joyful, exciting, and meaningful only to the extent that I allow Jesus to have his way with me through the power of the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, my life is no different from the lives of the pagans of this world. In which case, does Jesus really matter? "You think about that." Amen.