

## ***Philippians 3:1-9***

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. <sup>2</sup>Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. <sup>3</sup>For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh — <sup>4</sup>though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup>But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith

### **I was a Dog**

Philippians 3:1-9

David Bartosik - November 26, 2017

1. **You're a dog if you add anything at all to faith.**
  - Paul condemns adding anything to faith
  - Paul lived that empty theology
  - Paul was the leader of this pack
2. **We're a child of God if we live by Faith alone.**
  - Paul passionately advocates faith alone
  - Paul experienced the incomparable worth of Christ
  - Paul abandoned all earning
  - Paul characterizes people of faith
  - Jesus is Gain

## Notes:

## *Life Group Discussion Questions:*

### Philippians 3:1-9

#### What does it mean?

1. How would you summarize the big ideas thus far in Philippians?
2. Who are the “dogs”, “evildoers” and “those who mutilate the flesh” and how does Paul want us to understand them?
3. How are they contrasted with the Philippians?
4. What does it mean to “put no confidence in the flesh”?
5. What reason does Paul have in mentioning all of these things in verses 4–6? Why does it seem that Paul isn’t merely neutral about his background?
6. What does it mean to consider everything a loss that he may gain Christ?
7. What does Paul mean when saying “Knowing Christ Jesus My Lord”?
8. What does it mean to be “found in” Christ? How is this related to being righteous?
9. How would you paraphrase Philippians 3:1-9?

#### How does it apply?

1. Why is justification by faith alone, with nothing added, important? What makes it difficult?
2. Describe what life looks like for someone depending on their own efforts to become righteous? What’s it look like? What’s it feel like?
3. Describe what life looks like for someone who has been declared righteous through faith alone? What’s it look like? What’s it feel like?
4. How do you see yourself putting confidence in your achievements? What things are you hesitant to lose or count as rubbish for the sake of Christ? Why?
5. What things do you do/can you do to see Christ’s surpassing worth more clearly?
6. Make a list of situations, events, or choices over the past few months that show God is transforming you from the inside out. That you are counting more things as rubbish (relative to Christ). Take time to pray and celebrate and thank God for working in and through you.