

Philippians: To live is Christ.

Session 12: In Christ alone (Phil. 3:1-11)

Scriptures: Phil. 3:1-11; Galatians 1:6-8; 5:12; 6:14.

1. Read Phil. 3:1-11. Why did Paul need to write these words? What is the spiritual truth that applies to all generations and churches in these words?
2. How do people attempt to 'get right with God'? What has been your experience of this in talking to your friends and colleagues?
3. If you were to die tonight and Christ was to ask you why he should let you into heaven, how would you respond?
4. Why do you think that Paul is so aggressive in his words? See Gal. 1:6-8; Phil. 1:3?
5. What does Paul mean by "For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh ..." (3:3).
6. In which way is the phrase "God helps them who help themselves" not appropriate or helpful in this passage? Is that phrase ever helpful in other contexts?
7. Read Phil. 3:4-6. Why does Paul list his "spiritual credentials" and what point is he making? Can you think of a modern rendering of what Paul is saying here?
8. As you look back over your life, can you also say that "everything (is) a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ"?
9. Read Phil. 3:10-11. What are Paul's ambitions for the future? What are the challenges to you?
10. Listen to Graham's Kendrick's *Knowing You, Jesus*.