Joy Lays Down Its Credentials October 28, 2018

*Philippians 3:1-11 Series: Inextinguishable Joy*

Paul had enough morality to keep him out of trouble, but not enough righteousness to get him into heaven. – Warren Wiersbe

Intro: The day that Bobby Moore shook hands with the Queen.

1. Abandon the empty credentials of the world’s standards.
2. Watch out for the critics who try to rob your joy.

v. 1 *rejoice in the Lord*

v. 2 *Look out for the dogs …*

v. 2 *look out for the evildoers*

v. 2 *look out for those who mutilate the flesh*

1. Examine the credentials that give you confidence.

v. 4 *If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more …*

1. Treat your worldly credentials as liabilities.

v. 3 *put no confidence in the flesh*

v. 7 *But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*

v. 8 *I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*

v. 8 *For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ …*

* Have you experienced some of the ‘dogs’ that Paul speaks of?
* What are some of the credentials that you’re tempted to trust in to convince yourself you’re ‘okay?’
* Practically, how do you “count” your credentials as liabilities?

1. Receive by faith, the perfect credentials of God’s holy standard.
2. Only the gift of God’s righteousness can save us.

v. 9 *not having a righteousness of my own*

v. 9 *the righteousness from God*

Romans 10:3 *For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.*

1. The gift of God’s righteousness comes by faith in Christ alone.

v. 9 *that which comes through faith in Christ*

v. 9 *the righteousness from God that depends on faith*

Romans 3:28 *For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*

1. Trusting in God’s righteousness isn’t a free ticket to sin.

Galatians 2:17-18 *But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor.*

* Why do we need “righteousness from God?” i.e. What’s wrong with our own righteousness?
* Why is it hard for many people to “submit to God’s righteousness?”
* What is Galatians 2:17-18 really saying? If after ‘trusting Christ,’ I end up sinning more that I did before, what does that show?

1. Lean into your losses that you may know Christ all the more.
2. In our losses, we discover how much we’ve gained in Christ.

v. 8 *I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*

v. 8 *For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ …*

1. In our losses, we become like Jesus who lost everything for us.

v. 10 *that I may know him and the power of his resurrection*

v. 10 *may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death*

1. In our losses, we follow Jesus who gained all in the resurrection.

v. 11 *that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead*

* As Paul experienced the loss of what he previously felt were impeccable religious credentials, it helped him to know Christ more deeply. Why is that?
* How does suffering make us more like Jesus?
* How does Jesus’ resurrection give us hope in our suffering?
* Where do you most need prayer in applying this message?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Philippians 3:12-21

Notes