



FINDING JOY IN SUCCESS
PHILIPPIANS 3:1-12
PASTOR TYLER SCOTT
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INTRODUCTION

This week's passage is SO GOOD! Paul reminds us to rejoice...*in the Lord*. We are challenged to find our joy in godly success (knowing Jesus more deeply, growing in relationship with him) more than worldly success – achievements, accolades or even religious devotion. *Note: worldly success is *not* bad...it's *good*. Yet Paul says it pales in comparison to the surpassing greatness of knowing the living God personally and profoundly! We are challenged to shred our religious resumes, and pursue Jesus...to *long* to know him more and more. How are we doing with this? :)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Philippians 3:1-12.**
 - a. Complete this sentence for yourself: "I regularly rejoice the most in _____"
 - b. _____
How would those who know you best answer that for you?
2. How do you struggle with "confidence in the flesh" (3:4-6)?
 - a. In what ways could your religious background be an impediment to your faith?
 - b. Which of your "religious resume" are you most proud of? (Be honest.)
 - c. Why is it good to be reminded/challenged to shred your resume?
3. **Read Psalm 63:1-8.** Tyler gave examples from the bible (David, Moses, Paul, etc.), history (Augustine, Luther, etc.), and even creation (**Romans 8:19-21**) to show evidence of a true longing to pursue and know God.
 - a. Why do you think more of us don't share that desire, that longing, that intense pursuit?
 - b. Does your desire to know Christ exceed all other aspirations? What gets in the way of that pursuit?
4. **Read Philippians 3:10.**
 - a. What stirs your affections for Jesus? (Tyler gave his list; what's yours?)
 - b. What steals your affections for Jesus? (Tyler gave his list; what's yours?)
 - c. Why do you think it is so important to know and identify what stirs/steals our affection for Jesus?



5. In what ways would you like to become more like Jesus as you pursue deeper relationship with him?
 - a. Over the last season (you define how long), how are you becoming more like Jesus as you follow him and pursue him? (*If someone in your group knows you closely, perhaps they have noticed growth/transformation...and they could share what they have noticed.
This is a good way to affirm one another, and also give God praise for the work He is doing in you and through you.)
6. **Read Philippians 3:12.**
 - a. In what ways were you really, truly broken before you met Jesus and began following him?
 - b. In what ways are you still aware of your brokenness, even as you pursue Jesus now?
7. **Read Ephesians 1:3-6, in relationship to Philippians 3:12.**
 - a. What stands out to you from this profound passage?
 - b. Express a few reasons why you are grateful for Jesus "taking hold of you" and "making you his own."
 - c. In what ways is it challenging to see yourself as "holy and blameless" in his sight?
 - d. How and why does this cause you to praise God more and pursue Jesus even more?

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Ask someone to find the words to the refrain/chorus of the hymn "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus."
Read it aloud, or even sing it among your group.

COMMIT TO MEMORY

I want to know Christ.

Philippians 3:10a (*Ask God to grow your desire to pursue Jesus and know him better.)

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Pray for the person on your right, and commit to praying for one another throughout the week.
Ask God to remind you by his Spirit to rejoice in the Lord (not in your resume), and pursue Jesus in relationship.