Philippians 3:1-11
For the week of 11/15/26

Reflection

1. What were some of the insights for you from Sunday's sermon?

Read Verses 1-3

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. 2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh-

Note: One commentator explains that these warnings are against the "Judaizers, those who dogged the trail of the apostles and endeavored to compel Gentile converts to submit to circumcision and other Jewish practices in order to be saved."

2. What are Paul's three warnings to the church, and why are they so harsh?

3. Who is Paul speaking about in verse 3 and why?

Read Verses 4-7

4 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: 5 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; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

4. Why does Paul lay down this challenge of "confidence in the flesh"?

5. What is Paul saying in verse 7?

<u>Read Verses 8-11</u>

8 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 9 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— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

6. According to the previous verses, Paul was successful. Why in these verses does he look at his accomplishments, pedigree, and life as "loss" and "rubbish"?

7. Where does Paul say righteousness comes from (performance or faith)? Why?

8. In verse 10, Paul restates "knowing Christ" (see verse 8). How does he want to know Christ?

Application

9. What are you willing to count as loss/rubbish? How far are you willing to know Christ?