

1. **Read Philippians 3:1-3** - Paul warns against putting "confidence in the flesh" — trusting external markers to make us right with God.
 - a. Where does "confidence in the flesh" show up in your life?
 - b. What do you tend to lean on for a sense of worth or standing?
2. **Read Philippians 3:4-6** - Paul's credentials were real, earned, and impressive — and he's about to call them worthless.
 - a. Is there something in your background, résumé, or sense of self that you find hard to let go of? What makes it hard to let go of?
3. **Read Philippians 3:7-8** - Paul uses the word rubbish (skubalon — literally trash, refuse, dung) to describe everything he gave up compared to knowing Christ. It's a jarring word; arguably profanity.
 - a. Why do you think Paul uses such strong language?
 - b. What does it add to his argument?
4. **Read Philippians 3:9** - Paul contrasts two kinds of righteousness: one you build, one you receive.
 - a. Which posture do you default to — earning or receiving?
 - b. How does that show up in your day-to-day relationship with God?

5. **Read Philippians 3:10-11** - Paul says knowing Christ includes both resurrection power and sharing in his sufferings.

- a. How might God be using suffering to shape your knowledge of Christ rather than distract from it?

This passage puts a direct question on the table: what are you building your identity on? Take a few minutes to actually answer — not the Sunday school answer, the real one. Then share as much as you're comfortable with: where is Christ competing with something else for the center of your life?

