



Sermon Series: Joy In Jesus
Sunday 11 February 2024
Losing the World Gaining Jesus Philippians 3:1-11
Homegroup questions

1. What does Paul mean to rejoice in the Lord (stress on **the** Lord)?

Share the things that make you each rejoice in Jesus.
Look back at Philippians 2 if you need ideas!

2. In v4-6 Paul lists all the things that he used to rely on (if you want to know more about what made these impressive, there is a brief summary at the bottom).

What are the things that you personally are tempted to put your confidence in, other than Jesus? *These are likely to be different for each of us but can equally pull us away from putting our faith in Jesus.*

3. v.8 How do you honestly feel about Paul's statement that he considers everything smelly rubbish compared to the worth of knowing Jesus?

What reasons does he give in v 7-11 for the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus?

4. v.9 What difference to us does it make to know that we can be found in Jesus, dressed in his righteousness

5. v.10 seems to contain a paradox – he wants to know the power of Jesus' resurrection and to share his sufferings. How does this help us make more sense of life now?

6. Where ultimately does knowing Jesus take us? (v.9-11)

7. How can we grow the same love for Jesus that Paul has, the desire to make him the one thing we are holding on to?

Pray for the things you have each shared, and for each of us to grow in our love of Jesus

Paul's CV – what it meant!

Circumcised on the 8th day

Paul was born into a committed Jewish family who kept the commandment given to Abraham.

Of the people of Israel

His pedigree is pure, he has not come from a convert, but his family tree is of Israel.

Of the tribe of Benjamin

Benjamin was the last of Jacob's sons, born to Rachel who he truly loved, the only child actually born in the land of Israel. The tribe of Benjamin stayed loyal to Judah when the other ten tribes split and was one of the two tribes who were a key part of the restoration of Israel after the exile. This tribe is as close to Jewish aristocracy as you could get.

A Hebrew of Hebrews

As the Jews spread out, many lost their native language of Hebrew, as they assimilated into the Greek-Roman world, even if they kept their faith. Paul's family, despite living in a Gentile city (Tarsus) had continued to speak Hebrew. This made him a cut above, in the eyes of others and probably himself!

A Pharisee – faultless in keeping the law

The Pharisees were determined to keep the law of Moses perfectly. They therefore debated what it meant to the very last detail. They were seen as holy, very religious, again by others and themselves!

Zeal – persecuting the church

Zeal was prized in the Jewish faith (e.g. Psalm 69:9). Paul was prepared to act, to give up his time, money and energy to wipe out this dangerous sect.

In the eyes of his fellow Jews, Paul had the right background, right language, right behaviours, right passion.