**First Baptist Church Taylorsville**

**May 12, 2019**

**Pressing Onward - A Study in Philippians**

***[The Good News of Jesus: Same Old Wonderful Story]***

**Philippians 3: 1-9**

**Introduction**

It is good for the people of God to be reminded often of the gospel (the story of the Good news of Jesus Christ’s life, death and resurrection to defeat sin, offer us forgiveness, and bring us to God) because all of us are tempted - at some level - to stray away from its truth.

The people of God never \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the gospel. We always need to be reminded of it. By God’s grace, we are consistently called back to Jesus Christ as our only true source of righteousness.

**Verse 1:**

The Christian life is to be one of unspeakable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because Jesus Christ is the source of true, authentic, and lasting joy.

Joy is different than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

In life, our circumstances will change and our emotions with them, but if you are in Christ, then your joy never changes.

As Christians, our joy is not based on our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

This does not mean it is wrong for you and me to feel sadness. However, as the people of God, we can never lose Jesus Christ or what He has given us in the gospel and that gives us joy.

**Application:**

Do you find joy elusive?

Do you find yourself crushed?

If you know Christ, pray for God to show you the goodness of having Christ and the joy that is yours because of Him.

If you do not know Christ, then you must know you will never know true joy and true peace until you know Jesus Christ. He stands always ready to receive you.

**Verse 2 – 3:**

In these verses, Paul is setting up a contrast between those who truly follow Christ and those who do not.

The people Paul is describing in these verses are known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. - They are those who believe in order to be truly saved, you need to believe in Jesus and follow some form of the Old Testament Laws.

These people end up trying to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ themselves by their own works and additions to the law and not in the already perfect sacrifice of Jesus.

**Application:**

In our day, while it may not be the addition of Old Testament laws, you and I may find ourselves struggling with the same concept.

When we try to add ANYTHING to the perfect work of Jesus Christ, we are attempting to justify ourselves by our additions.

When we base our value in God’s eyes on the “good” things or “bad” things we do, we are attempting to justify ourselves by our own work.

Jesus + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ = everything

**Verses 4 – 9:**

When it comes to Christ and our acceptance by God, our history is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Although we all tend to lean on our personal accomplishments and achievements (including Paul), we are called away from this self - reliance and instead called to boast in Jesus Christ.

**Application:**

Our own accomplishments can not purchase or earn us love, grace, forgiveness, and mercy from God. Christ in his love was willing to trade all of His perfect, right, and always good works for ours.

**Take Home Truths:**

As the people of God, (those who are seeking to press onward in Christ), we can never forget our past has no bearing or reflection on our right standing before God. This means at least two things for us:

1. Nothing needs to be added to the already perfect work of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.
2. The value and love that God has for us is not altered by our failures or the fact that we have been failed by others.

Jesus Christ says to us all, lovingly and tenderly, “You are worthy because I am worthy. You are counted right because I am right. You are loved and valued because I love and value you. Your identity is in me, you are mine”.

**Blanks: outgrow; joy; happiness; circumstances; Judaizers; justify; nothing; irrelevant**