

How are we to relate to Jesus(v10)?

Paul compares his quest for heaven to a race. What are the similarities?

How can looking back distract us from running the Christian race (v13)?

What is behind you that you need to forget in order to strain toward the things ahead?

What are Paul's goals in life? What are yours?

Lent 2021 - Reflections on Christian Priorities

**Study 5: What do we value? What does God value?
(Sermon - 14 March 2021)**

Philippians 3:1 - 14.

If some one was observing us, what do you think they would conclude about what we value?

This not just the treasures we may store up on earth, but also the things we may be tempted to point to as reasons God would accept us. One of the diagnosis questions from 'Evangelism Explosion' is when you are at the gates of heaven what reason would you give to be allowed in?

As Paul went about his ministry there were others who were claiming they were better credentialled. Paul as a leading Pharisee had much to recommend him. Indeed as a faithful Pharisee many would have said he was well qualified for heaven. But Paul takes a different approach, all this adds up to nothing in obtaining the righteousness God wants us to have. For only through Christ is this possible.

Let us look at what Paul has to teach us.

Phil 3:7 'But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.'

What do you value and why?

Now read Philippians 3:1 - 14

What sort of person does Paul warn us about in Phil 3:2 – 3?
Why is his warning so forceful? What is at stake?

If friends were to write references for your resume, what would they say to convince prospective employers that you are good person?

In v4 – 6 what could Paul have put confidence in?

In v6 Paul speaks of “legalistic righteousness”. What does he mean? What things can we be legalistic about?

How do these legalisms get in the way of knowing Christ and rejoicing in the Lord?

Why does Paul consider his resume (and yours) to be ‘rubbish’ (v7 - 9)?

What does Paul now consider of greater value?

Why have his reasons for confidence changed?

In what do you put your confidence?