

# Philippians: Week 8 Study Questions

## Philippians 3:1-7

Paul begins Philippians 3 with a warning to guard our faith against the subtle shift that can happen when we misplace our confidence. If we are not careful, where we find our value and hope can turn inward, causing us to lose confidence in God's mercy and gain confidence in our performance and in ourselves.

## Application

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1. Matt drew a comparison between circumcision, baptism, and praying a prayer of salvation. How do all of these acts represent something much bigger than the actual act? How have you experienced putting your confidence in one of these or something else other than faith to justify your salvation? How is the celebration of these different than acquiring salvation?
2. When is a time that your motivations for serving transferred from Christ-centered to self-centered? How are you experiencing that currently?
3. When we have put our faith in the work we are *doing*, we start (1) feeling entitled to be compensated, as if God or others "owe" us, and (2) thinking we are better than others who aren't doing the same work. Which of these two do you currently struggle with the most? How do you combat the feelings of entitlement or pride with the truth of Scripture?
4. Out of the considerations listed below, which do you more closely identify with?
  - a. You have been in church your whole life and have considered yourself a Christian, but you have not truly trusted in Christ alone as the substitute for your sin.
  - b. You have been in the faith for a long time and have made a subtle shift from trusting in God's mercy to trusting in the work that you do.
  - c. You are a doer, and you are "doing" because of your own sense of entitlement. Matt challenged us to keep in check the "doer" mentality of the Grace Church culture. Being a doer is a good thing, but it needs to come from the attitude of, "I'm serving because Jesus served me," not for recognition, control, or expectation of getting something in return.
  - d. You have fallen under the "super-busy Christian activity culture"—where you take good, spiritual activities and begin to believe God loves you or owes you because of them.
  - e. You are very disciplined in your spiritual activities (prayer, reading God's Word, service, etc.) and that has become your source of entitlement over how you believe God should feel about you.

No matter where our temptation lies to trust in something other than Jesus alone, the truth is that, as believers, we will live in eternity with Jesus because *He will bring us there*—not because we are trusting in some version of our own faithfulness that will ultimately leave us empty and alienated from Him.

## Key Points

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- The Philippians have taken faith and corrupted it by adding religious activity to it. When we take faith and try to add a physical, religious activity to it, we no longer have faith.
- No physical activity has the ability to have a real impact on our soul.
- When we bank on faith + what we are *doing* to save ourselves, we are rewriting the story of redemption and making ourselves the centerpiece.
- Oftentimes, the work we are doing to “earn” our salvation is what is leading us away from God. It can be a distraction to true faith that engages us with the Lord.
- Trusting in some created version of our own faithfulness ultimately leaves us empty and alienated from Jesus.
- In Colossians 2:13-15, we see that God did it all. While we were dead, God made us alive. He canceled; He disarmed; He shamed; He gave victory; and He forgave—He restored us.