

Philippians: Finding Joy in a Broken World

Finding Joy in Progress

Read the following verses: Philippians 3:1-11

Examining the Text:

1. Paul lists his credentials in 3:5-6. Which ones are based upon his natural birth, and which ones are because of his accomplishments?
2. Paul's credentials were at one time a real plus or gain in his life. Now Paul counts them as loss. What caused this change?
3. What does Paul's endeavoring look like in verses 8 through 11?
4. In Philippians 3:11 Paul says, "that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection of the dead." Is he unsure of one day being resurrected from the dead (1 Thess. 4:16b; 1 Cor. 15:52)? Is Paul just being humble? Or does this verse point to something more?

Digging Deeper:

1. Paul talks about a righteousness that depends on faith as opposed to the law (v. 9). Is he speaking about being once-for-all justified by faith, or is Paul speaking about our on-going, day-by-day living that is approved by God? You can compare this though also with Galatians 2:20.

The Heart of the Matter:

1. Now that you know your Christian life is about progress, gaining, knowing Him, being found in Him, etc., how is your endeavoring? What is helpful to your active pursuit of God? Have you had to re-evaluate your life and living?