

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
**PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS – LESSON 8**  
**PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11**  
**WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3 – NOVEMBER 8**

In **verse 1 of chapter 3** Paul returns to his theme of joy which he addressed in chapters one and two. That true joy is found “in the Lord” based on a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Paul then continues in the passage before us to explain, from his own experience, the distinction between a false man-made righteousness based on good works (works righteousness) and a true righteousness which is through faith in Christ.

**Read Philippians 3:1-3 to answer the following:**

1. What was Paul's warning to the Philippian church?
2. From **Acts 15:1**, what was the message communicated by these false workers?

By describing them as “the false circumcision”, Paul clearly identified these false teachers as his perennial opponents, the Judaizers. Those Jewish legalists denied the gospel of grace, teaching that circumcision and keeping the law of Moses were necessary for salvation.” [MacArthur New Testament Commentary Philippians](#), John MacArthur, page 218

3. In contrast to the those identified as the false circumcision described in **verse 2**, how does Paul describe those who are identified as the true circumcision in **verse 3**? Who is the true circumcision?

**Read Philippians 3:4-6 which describes Paul's “works righteousness”; his claim to achieve a right standing before God based upon his pedigree, his self effort and his good works.**

4. From **verses 5-6**, what did Paul list as his heritage and accomplishments which he thought would provide him with a right standing before God, entitling him to eternal life?
5. Read **Galatians 1:14**. How did Paul compare himself with other Jews?

**Paul uses accounting terms, “gain”, “loss” and “to count” in verses 7 - 9a to compare a righteousness based on his religious works with a true righteousness based upon faith in Christ alone.**

6. How does Paul use these terms to explain the comparison of Paul’s former belief that he earned God’s favor by his own efforts to the true righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith in Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why did Paul view his spiritual resume from **verses 5 and 6** as “rubbish” or “dung”?

**Read Philippians 3:8-11 where Paul describes giving up those things which he, before he met Christ, believed would provide him with a right to eternal life and gladly exchanging those things with the amazing benefits that became his in Christ.**

8. From these verses what are the benefits or blessings received through faith in Christ?

Righteousness is right standing with God and acceptance by him. That repentant sinners have their sin imputed to Christ and his righteousness imputed to them is the heart of the gospel. In **2nd Corinthians 5:21**, Paul declared that God “made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. Paul gladly shed the threadbare robe of his own righteousness and stretched out his empty hands to receive the glorious royal robe of God's righteousness in Christ. This doctrine is at the core of the gospel. On the cross God judged Jesus as if He had personally committed every sin ever committed by every person who ever truly believed. When a sinner embraces Jesus as Lord and trusts only in His sacrifice for sin, God treats that sinner as if he lived Christ's sinless life. [MacArthur New Testament Commentary - Philippians](#), John MacArthur, page 238

9. How have you applied the truths of **Philippians 3:1-11** to your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What do you find to be personally most meaningful and encouraging from the benefits of faith in Christ described in **Phil. 3:8-11**?