

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



The Keys To Eternal Joy

To put Paul’s accomplishments in Judaism in perspective, let me cast them in a more modern idiom. He had obtained all the honors: Eagle Scout, homecoming king, valedictorian, a full-ride scholarship to an Ivy League school. He had graduated summa cum laude, going on to excel in his field with every possible honor. But then he realized that, in comparison to knowing Christ, everything he had accomplished turned out to be filthy rags. Rubbish. Useless. Dung!

Paul’s ancient words hit today’s overachievers hard. For those who see high achievement as paramount and seek after rewards and recognition—this passage is for you. Our righteousness, good works, fame, riches, and impressive achievements will not get us one step closer to heaven or one mark higher in God’s estimation. In fact, these will drive us further away from depending on Christ alone for salvation. This warning also addresses believers who have received Christ’s salvation by grace alone through faith alone, but who nevertheless turn to their own strength and accomplishments to live Christlike lives. That, too, is an impossibility.

A couple very simple reminders grow out of the contrast Paul shares in Philippians 3:1-11. First, trusting in your own achievements can bring you glory now, but it leaves you spiritually bankrupt later. The hardest part of getting driven, self-made, “type A” people to understand the gospel is to help them understand that grace is unmerited favor. It can’t be earned. It can’t be bought. It can’t be sought and found. It can only be received. This hard truth is painful for go-getters who have come to believe that anything worth having is worth sweating for. The truth is, when it comes to salvation, surrendering our efforts is the only way to gain a restored relationship with God, the result of which is eternal life.

Second, trusting in Christ’s accomplishment on the cross gives Him the glory now and results in our eternal righteousness. This is what Paul means when he tells the Philippians to “rejoice in the Lord” (3:1). We glory in Him, not in ourselves. We celebrate His accomplishments for us, not our work for Him. We praise and thank Him for who He is and what He has done, forgetting ourselves and our achievements and ignoring our own résumés. We give Him glory now. Paul discovered—and perhaps you will too—that all human efforts to live a life pleasing to God apart from Christ are pointless and fruitless.

Source: *Swindoll’s Living Insights* by Charles Swindoll

KEY VERSE

Philippians 3:8 (NKJV)

“ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ . “

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Philippians 3:1-16

Introduction

1. Paul tells us to “Rejoice in the Lord” in Philippians 3:1. What are some ways you have rejoiced in the Lord this week?
2. After reading today’s scripture, which verse or verses stood out to you most? Why?

Tuesday: Philippians 3:1-6; Psalm 51:16-17; I Samuel 15:22

Don’t Place Your Trust In Religion

3. Why would Paul use such harsh language in Philippians 3:2 to talk about false teachers?
4. How would you describe Paul’s religious resume? Do you have any personal qualifications or abilities that you tend to put your trust in?

Wednesday: Philippians 3:7-8; Ephesians 2:8-9; Jeremiah 9:23-24

Admit That You Need Jesus For Salvation

5. Look over Paul’s credentials. What “gain” was he deriving from them? Why does he now see them as loss? What does Paul see as excellent?
6. How do you trust in God’s righteousness over your personal qualifications?

Thursday: Philippians 3:9-12, Romans 10:9-10; II Peter 1:5-8

Believe In Jesus As Your Savior

7. Philippians 3:9 describes the saving faith that Paul had? What is salvation based upon?
8. Philippians 3:10-11 describes Paul’s growing faith. Which of these do you want to grow in?
9. Is God’s righteousness perfect as a foundation for our actions? Why?

Friday: Philippians 3:13-16; I Timothy 6:11-12; Hebrews 6:1

Commit Your Life To Following Jesus

10. Look at Philippians 3:13. What are some things behind you that you need to forget?
11. What things ahead should you reach forward to?
12. In what ways is Jesus a prize in your life? What steps can you take to press toward the goal (Philippians 3:14)?
13. How can the joy of knowing Jesus, strengthen your trust in God today?