



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for February 4, 2024

Sermon Title: Status Update

Sermon Series: Authentic: Real Life in Christ, Inside & Out

Preacher: Jeff Wagner

Theme/concept

Whatever gain, I count as loss.

Icebreaker (for groups)

Make a list of your credentials: family background, awards, education, organizational memberships, church activities, practices, and disciplines. Use an extra page if necessary.

Reflections on the Sermon

What were your take aways from Jeff's sermon?

Scripture (New International Version)

Philippians 3:1-11

¹ Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

² Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹

and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Reviewing the Scripture

1. What instruction does Paul give the Philippians in verse 1? Where have you seen this same instruction in his letter to the Philippians?
2. To understand verse 2, read Acts 15:1. What were some people teaching the newer Christians in Acts 15:1? In Philippians 3:2, what instruction does Paul give the Philippians regarding these “teachers”? What 3 names does Paul use for them?
3. According to verse 3, what is more vitally important than circumcision?
4. Verses 4-6 list Paul’s credentials. List them here.
5. In verse 7, how does Paul evaluate his credentials now?
6. Verse 8 speaks of loss and gain. What does Paul consider loss? What does he consider gain?

7. According to verse 9, what kind of righteousness does Paul desire?
8. What more does Paul desire according to verse 10?
9. In verse 11, what is Paul's ultimate goal?

Going Deeper

1. As Christians today, what "dogs" do we need to watch out for?
2. In the Christian community, what kinds of people do we tend to think more highly of?
3. In what ways can we fall into the same mindset as Paul when he was persecuting Christians?

Application

1. What have you learned from this passage that you can apply to your current situation in life?

Closing Prayer

Gracious God,

Once again, we thank you for spelling out for us that knowing Jesus is more important than our earthly credentials or than our religious practices. Forgive us when we try to earn favor with you by what we consider to be our good works. Thank you for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross which covers our many sins. To Him be glory now and forever!

Amen