

## **Gospel Living in Difficult Days**

Philippians 3:1-11

### **PREPARE**

Quiet your thoughts and welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit in your midst.

Begin with prayer. What do you most want to receive from the Lord this day? Perhaps it's the warmth of His loving presence; or you are waiting to hear specific guidance or direction. Take a few moments to release the anxieties and worries you have and receive His good, pleasing, and perfect plan for you today. This time of prayer will be different for everyone.

Read/Pray/Memorize these words of Paul from Galatians 6:14

*"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."*

### **REFLECT**

In your core group, briefly discuss one of these three questions. Break into triads if necessary.

1. How have you experienced the blessing of God in these past few weeks?
2. What burdens, worries, or anxieties have you been carrying and would appreciate prayer for?
3. What's a next step looking forward that you are excited about, fearful about, or uncertain about and want to step out in faith and need prayer support for?

### **STUDY**

#### **Read Philippians 3:1-6**

- What are some areas where we put confidence in the flesh when it comes to our standing before God?
- What are the "unwritten rules" Christians are supposed to follow? How does the church respond when those rules are broken?

#### **Focus on Philippians 3:7-9**

- What is so great about "knowing Christ Jesus" that Paul would be willing to lose everything he has attained in the past?
- Describe how your personal identity has been developed over time. How have other things in the past taken the place of God's rightful home in the center of your identity?
- Read Ephesians 2:1-10. How do you describe "grace"?

- Describe how grace influences our life...

### **Focus on Philippians 3:10-11**

- Paul states, “I want to know Christ...” The “knowing” here is from experience and companionship. What are ways you have grown to know Christ intimately?
- Paul describes four areas he wants to experience in his relationship with Jesus. How do these four statements empower us to live our life with Christ now?
  - “the power of his resurrection...”
  - “the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings...”
  - “becoming like him in his death...”
  - “attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

### **RESPONSE**

1. What view of “Christian Rules” are you holding onto which keeps you from fully experiencing the grace of God?
2. How do you balance faith & works in your life with Christ?
3. Describe a time when you deeply experienced the grace of God in your life...

### **Remember your assignments!**

- Read the whole Book of Philippians this week
- Memorize Paul’s prayer in Philippians 1:9-11
- Contact someone from Baseline who you just miss and check in to see how they are doing.

Close in Prayer: List prayer requests here.