

A SIGNIFICANT LIFE

Philippians 3:1-11

- *"Leave your impoverished confusion and live! Walk up the street to a life with meaning."* (Proverbs 9:6)
- **The Lord wants to help us live a "life of meaning" so we can MAKE LIFE COUNT.**
- ***What are the great desires and/or needs of people's lives?***
- **Most people are searching for security, sufficiency, satisfaction and significance in their lives.**
- **A desire for significance in life can be expressed by statements like: *"I want my life to have meaning"* or *"I want to accomplish something important"* or *"I want to be somebody"* or *"I want to make a difference."***
- **Having a desire for significance is not wrong – unless we pursue significance in the wrong ways or outside of our relationship with Jesus.**
- *"Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with Him."* (Philippians 3:8-9)
- **When we discover what Paul discovered, we will experience both lasting satisfaction and significance in our lives.**

Lasting Significance Is Experienced When We:

MINIMIZE OUR PURSUIT OF TEMPORAL FOCUSES

- Paul - *"Watch out for those 'dogs', those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, though I could have*

confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!" (Philippians 3:2-4)

- **Lasting significance doesn't come from having a *Prestigious Ancestry*.**
    - *"I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin - a real Hebrew if there ever was one!"* (Philippians 3:5)
    - **It's good to have a strong family background, but many people with such backgrounds wind up experiencing miserable and failing lives.**
- **Lasting significance doesn't come from having *Popular Associations*.**
    - *"I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law."* (Philippians 3:5)
    - **Being a member of the popular crowd is a fulfilling but fleeting experience, and should never be the passion and pursuit of our lives.**
- **Lasting significance doesn't come from having *Passionate Ambitions.***
    - *"I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church."* (Philippians 3:6)
    - **When we have passion for the wrong ambitions, that passion will lead us far from where we and others really want to be in life.**
- **Lasting significance doesn't come from having *Personal Achievements*.**
    - *"And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault."* (Philippians 3:6)
    - **We should pursue personal achievements, understanding that while those achievements will perhaps help us and others, they will not bring us the lasting significance we are searching for.**
    - Jesus - *"A person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."* (Luke 12:16-21)
- *"I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done."* (Philippians 3:7)

Lasting Significance Is Experienced When We:

PRIORITIZE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH <u>JESUS</u>

- *"Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."* (Philippians 3:8)
- **Really knowing Jesus requires *Receiving Him as our Savior*.**
    - **Paul received Jesus as His Savior and Lord on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-22).**
    - **To make Jesus our Savior we must: 1) Repent of our sins (Acts 3:19), 2) Place our Faith in Him (Acts 4:12), and 3) Surrender our lives to Him (Romans 10:9-10).**
    - *"For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with Him. I no longer count on*

my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with Himself depends on faith." (Philippians 3:8-9)
    - **Everyone needs to receive Jesus as their Savior because nothing else that we do can make us right with God.**
    - *"To all who believed Him (Jesus) and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God."* (John 1:12)
    - **In the New Testament, people demonstrated they had made Jesus their Savior and Lord by being baptized by immersion (Acts 2:38-41).**
    - *"Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."* (Philippians 3:8)
    - **We can know people historically or contemporaneously but the only way to get to really know Jesus is to know Him experientially.**
- **Really knowing Jesus requires *Pursuing Him with all our Heart*.**
    - *"I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead. I want to suffer with Him, sharing in His death so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!"* (Philippians 3:10-11)
    - **We pursue the Lord's presence by daily worshiping Him, praying to Him, reading His Word, etc.; and the stronger our relationship with Jesus grows, the more supernatural power we will have in our lives.**
    - **We experience suffering as we become intimately connected with Jesus, but the satisfaction we experience is worth the suffering.**
    - **Daily pursuing Jesus' presence in our lives will bring power, peace, perseverance and purpose to our lives.**
- ***If you could really get to know someone, who would that person be?***
    - **People today are fanatical in their pursuit of getting to see or know celebrities, but the most important person that we can ever get to know and spend time with is Jesus Christ, God's Son and our Savior.**

- **To find real purpose, meaning and significance, we must enter into and maintain a dynamic relationship with Jesus and with other Christians.**
- *"My dear brothers and sisters rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith."* (Philippians 3:1)
- **Participating in *Life Groups* and serving on *Serve Teams* help people enter into strong relationships with the Lord and with other Christians.**
- **At the end of life most people discover what really matters in life – a strong relationship with Jesus Christ and with people who know Him.**
- ***On a scale of 1 to 10, how would I rate my relationship with Jesus?***