



## A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of January 31, 2021

### ***That I May Gain Christ***

*This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Philippians 3:4-8](#)*

<sup>4</sup> though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

### *For Further Discussion...*

- When do you **feel confident**? **Why**?
- The Apostle Paul uses the word “confidence” twice in today’s text. In your own words, **what does “confidence in the flesh” mean?** (4)
- Paul has got a lot to boast in. Look at his list of achievements and credentials (5-6). Why would **each one be valuable to Paul & his culture**? What would be the **equivalent of each boast** in your own life and culture?

*“Circumcised on the eighth day”*

*“Of the people of Israel”*

*“Of the tribe of Benjamin”*

*“A Hebrew of Hebrews”*

*“As to the law, a Pharisee”*

*“As to zeal, a persecutor of the church”*

*“As to righteousness under the law, blameless”*

- **Why** does Paul consider his credentials and achievements (and yours) “**loss**” and “**rubbish**”?
- Paul is talking about a deep truth that is very difficult for us: **We not only need to repent of our sins, we must repent of our righteousness.** What is one **false way** you are tempted to **feel righteous**? What would it look like to **count that self-generated righteousness a loss**?
- Paul takes on a **terrible caricature of Christianity: Moralism.** A view that being a Christian is basically being good & keeping score. **How does Moralism steal our joy**?
- In your own words, summarize what Paul is saying is **the most valuable thing in life.** (7-8)
- **Pray together** in light of this week’s passage.

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