



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of November 6, 2023

1. Have two different people in your group read Philippians 3:1-7 in two different Bible translations. What is the 'big idea' of this section of Scripture in your own words?
2. In verse 1, Paul calls on the Philippians to keep rejoicing in the Lord, regardless of their personal circumstances. What is the difference between happiness and joy? How can a Christian experience joy even when cancer strikes, the checkbook is low, or the family vehicle just broke down?

What "joy" can be discovered and enjoyed from these famous verses?

Proverbs 3:5-6

John 3:16

John 5:24

Romans 8:28

3. Pastor Ryan explained that one of the most formidable opponents of the gospel during the first century was a group of people called "Judaizers". Paul warned the Christians to steer clear of these "*dogs... evildoers... mutilators of the flesh*". Take a moment and use someone's study Bible (or even Google) to explain what the Judaizers believed about salvation and being right with God. Where were they going wrong?

How would you explain to someone that *Jesus + Works* is NOT the gospel?
(see Romans 5:1-2 and Ephesians 2:8-9)

4. If anyone could have earned their way to heaven with religious zeal and law-keeping, it was Paul the Apostle (formerly Saul). In verses 4-6, what were the personal accomplishments on Paul's resume?
5. What conclusion did Paul come to regarding his family lineage, and his personal, educational, and religious accomplishments in verse 7?
6. What are some of the things that many secular people are clinging to, hoping for salvation?
7. What are some of the things that many Christians are clinging to, instead of a deeper walk with Christ?