**“The Real Treasure”**

Going deeper in Philippians 3:7-11

**INTRODUCTION**

Prior to this passage the Apostle Paul has been countering the false teaching of salvation by works. Those promoting this false teaching have been trying to elevate themselves by drawing attention to their status and “special” wisdom. Paul has pointed out that if anyone had the right to special status it is him, but instead he focuses on what has been done for him in Jesus Christ.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 7 But whatever status or privilege I earned I now consider like garbage to be thrown out. Why? Because of Christ. 8 That’s right, in fact, all the things I used to think were so very important have lost their value when compared to extraordinary privilege of personally and intimately knowing Jesus Christ as my Lord. Everything I thought was so important I now consider garbage dump material so that I could grab hold of the real treasure which is Christ and so he could grab hold of me. 9 I want to be found in him because I don’t want to rely on an empty and inferior righteousness from keeping a list of rules (the law), but instead a solid and robust righteousness that comes through trusting Christ. The real righteousness that comes from God by faith. 10 My desire is to personally know and experience life with Christ in his resurrection power. I want to be an active participant in the spiritual battle and ultimately be shaped by his sacrificial death. 11 I am humbly relying on God’s grace to give me resurrection life from the dead.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What were the privileges and status that Paul had earned (see Philippians 3:1-6)?

2. The word for “knowing” Christ in verse 8 & 10 have the idea of a mystical and intimate knowledge that transcends comprehension. How would this be different from merely knowing about Jesus? How well do you know Him?

3. How has your faith in Jesus Christ changed your view of what’s important? In what ways is He still shaping you in this?

4. How has your faith changed your view of your accomplishments, your status, and your money and resources? What practical differences has this made in your life?

5. Paul considered Jesus as the real treasure for life now and into eternity. On a scale of 1 to 10 where does knowing Jesus and his resurrection power rate as your treasure? What will help to make that higher or what will help to keep Him in His rightful place as the real treasure of your life?

6. How does the free gift into resurrection life (the real treasure) impact what you do with the money and resources God has given you?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord Jesus for the free gift of resurrection life in Him.

\*Ask Him to change your view of what is important in life. Ask Him daily to help you to value what He values.

\*Thank Him for His resurrection power at work in you and ask Him to help you rely on that power in your day.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Jesus Christ had changed the apostle Paul’s life and perspective. What will your response be to the treasure of resurrection life? What practical difference does it make in your day-to-day life? What difference does it make with the money & resources the Lord has given to you?