

Philippians 3 : 4-11



The Greatest Treasure In Life

We live in a world that is so sinfully self-absorbed that the highest priority in life easily becomes "me, myself & I." We matter most to us. In essence, we are our own greatest treasure. And because of this, we're always stuck on a performance treadmill of our own creation, looking for some way

(even an extreme makeover) to make ourselves better. Paul, before he became a Christian, was this type of person. He called it "putting confidence in the flesh." He just knew that he was the best, had to stay the best, and that the whole goal of life is to always be at the very pinnacle of your game. It's all about earning your way - always proving your value to self, others, and eventually to God. The problem is that this simply doesn't work. Self-absorption leaves you empty. Paul says it makes you feel like "trash." Instead he found something different. He found what (actually "who") truly is life's greatest treasure and in this study we'll let him tell us all about it.

What Is Life's Greatest Treasure

According to Society:

According to Scripture:

Why Is This The Greatest Treasure?

1. (v. 8) Because next to Jesus . . .
2. (v. 9) Because thanks to Jesus . . .
3. (v. 10) Because through Jesus . . .

4. (v. 10) Because in Jesus . . .
5. (v. 10) Because by following Jesus . . .
6. (v. 10) Because as we let Jesus be Lord . . .
7. (v. 11) Because knowing Jesus . . .

Where Do We Go With This?

6-06-10 22nd in a teaching series entitled *Philippians: Enjoy Life's Journey* by Pastor John K. Nagle. CD's are available at the Welcome Center immediately following the service for a donation of \$3.00 each. PJ's messages are also available online at faithkent.org/media for free. ☺

For Thought And Talk

In your small group, take 5 minutes to review the main points of the message and choose from the following questions for discussion.

1. What are some of the driving factors in life that cause people in general to become so self-absorbed? Closer to home - What does a self-absorbed Christian act like? Why do we, as believers who know better, still fall back into the rut of self-absorption?
2. Paul uses the Greek term "skabulon" (excrement, animal dung) to describe the things he once thought were such treasures in life. Why was he so passionate about "trashing" these things with such a label? Why would it be equally important for each of us to do the same?
3. PJ shared seven reasons why Paul "treasured" knowing Christ. As a group, work down the list asking the question: *Why is each one of these concepts vital to treasuring Jesus?*
4. At the close of PJ's message, when you were asked to "give up your trash," what did the Holy Spirit bring to your mind? How will your life be better the more you distance yourself from such garbage? Who else might benefit from this kind of change in you?