

Topics of the Bible ~ A Christian's Goal ~ Discussion Questions

[All scripture verses are from Philippians Chapter 3]

1. In Verse 3:1, what is Paul writing again? Why is he repeating these things?
2. Who were the “dogs” that Paul spoke of? Why was he criticizing them? What does this mean to us today? (3:2-3)
3. Paul had many advantages (upbringing, achievement, education, birth) that he could have trusted in. How does it help you to know that? (3:4-6)
4. Paul says that all his advantages are worthless compared with what? How do you compare your knowledge of Christ with the other things in your life? (3:7-8)
5. The law of Moses, discipline, going to church, or “being good” cannot make us right with God. What is the only way to get a right relationship with Christ? (3:9) What changes must you make or what must you give up in order to know Christ?
6. When Paul wrote, “somehow, to attain to the resurrection” was he expressing uncertainty or doubt? (3:11) Do you have any doubt that you will be resurrected?
7. What ideas does Paul’s attitude give you that you might copy? (3:12) What is holding you back from following Paul’s example?
8. Specifically, what should you do that Paul was doing? He says that the Christian life is like a race. What must you do to win your ‘race’? (3:13-14)
9. Explain verses 3:15-16 in your own words.
10. Where should you look for an example of how to live? (3:17)
11. How does Paul describe people who live like enemies of the cross of Christ? (3:18-19)
12. As citizens of heaven, how do you need to be? (3:20)

Topics of the Bible ~ A Christian's Goal ~ Questions for Small Groups

1. What sort of things tend to draw you away from Christ?
2. What do you feel are your most valuable skills and gifts? What do you tend to boast about?
3. Why did Paul say he considered all of his former accomplishments as “rubbish”? (Verse 3:8)
4. What do you need to start thinking of as “rubbish” for the sake of Christ? How hard is it to do this?
5. Paul says in Verse 3:14, “I press on toward the goal to win the prize...” in living a “perfect” (or mature) Christian life. That can leave you drained and discouraged because you may feel so far from perfect that you can't possibly please God. How do you resolve this discrepancy between what you are and what you should be? Do you ever think you can't possibly win this race that Paul describes? What then?
6. What kind of opposition do you face in your struggle to live as a Christian? (Family, friends, addictions, giving in to temptations, questions about your beliefs, or something else?)
7. How can Christ help you stay on track and reach the goal? (Hint: it takes more than prayer alone.)
8. How can you imitate Paul's life and example?
9. What spiritual workout or training *this week* will help you run your Christian marathon? Be specific.