

## **Losing All to Gain Christ** **Philippians 3:1-11**

### **Two commands: be joyful and beware, 3:1-3**

- ❖ Joy again pops up, 1:18,25, 2:2,17,18,28,29, 4:4. See Ps. 32:11, 33:1.
- ❖ Fatherly Paul suddenly turns fierce, using three harsh ironic titles—*dogs*, *evil workers*, *mutilators* (“Judaizers”--Acts 15:1,5, Gal. 5:6-12, 6:12-16).
- ❖ Paul and the Philippians = *the true circumcision* (Col. 2:11,12). They *boast / exalt in the Lord* (1 Cor. 1:30,31; this idea is from Jer. 9:23,24).

### **Two kinds of confidence: in the flesh or in Christ, 3:4-11**

- ❖ This autobiographical sketch (so common for Paul) relates how his own “spiritual overachievements” had to be trashed to truly experience God.
- ❖ What confidence in the flesh looks like:  
Note listed overachievements that once seemed valuable . . .
  - four = hereditary (Acts 22:2-3, true Jew, and from a favored tribe)
  - three = by choice (in strictest sect, zealous, obeyed to the max)

- ❖ What confidence in Christ looks like:

- Note listed aims considered now of surpassing value:
  - counting all as loss for the sake of Christ (*skubala*, Mtt. 13:44-46)
  - knowing Christ (2x), gaining Christ, being found in Him
  - experiencing His resurrection power and suffering (1 Pt. 2:21)
  - resurrecting from the dead (1:23, Rom. 6:5)

Questions: In whom is my confidence? I mean, really?  
Do I get this loss / gain thing, and is it a reality in my life?

