

The 19th after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 20, 2019
“Joy Ride: A Study of Philippians ~ Daily Habits For Joy”
Philippians 3:1-16

Daily Habit #1: _____.

“Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh! For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh...” (3:2-3)

Paul argues against this _____ approach to faith and reminds the Philippians that it’s not about what we do or don’t do, but what _____ has already done for us in _____.

We can’t _____ God’s approval, nor can we _____ His love or bargain for our _____. The only way we can receive these things—the only way that we can be saved—is to: _____ that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for us sins—a belief that leads to _____—and then _____ what Jesus accomplished for us through His finished work on the Cross.

This is also the difference between _____ and _____. Religion = what we _____ for God; relationship = what God has _____ for us.

It is finished = tete-lestai =

This is a promise that everything that needs to be done for our forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life has been done. We don’t need to worry that some detail has been _____; some important deed left _____; some necessary duty _____—that there’s something _____ that we have to do. In fact, we’ll _____ our joy every time we forget this—every time we think we have to _____ God’s love and acceptance.

Trap #1: _____.

Legalism is an attitude that says we have to _____ our love to God. It’s _____ in what we do—_____ on rules, regulations, and rituals to make us right with God—instead of what He’s done for us.

The problem with legalism is we can never do _____—we always fall _____.

“...even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.” (3:4-6)

PAUL’S ANCESTRAL ADVANTAGES

- _____: “...circumcised on the 8th day...” He had the _____ sign that he was part of the people of Israel.
- _____: “...of the people of Israel.” He was one of God’s chosen people, a child of Abraham, and of the _____.
- _____: “...of the tribe of Benjamin...” Many of the Jews had blurred their tribal purity through _____; however, Paul was a _____ blooded Benjamite.

PAUL’S ACHIEVED ADVANTAGES

- _____: “...Hebrew born of Hebrews...” Paul grew up surrounded by Greco-Roman culture. However, he wasn’t _____ into that culture, but maintained a strict _____ to his Jewish heritage.
- _____: “...as to the law, a Pharisee...” Paul was a member of this select group of Jews who _____ all _____ oral and written laws.
- _____: “...under the law, blameless.” Inwardly, he struggled with sin like all of us, but outwardly there was no area in which he _____ the law.

The problem with a legalistic approach to faith is that we can become _____, self-righteousness, and _____ of others. We can have a _____, self-centred spirit that holds everybody else to the same high _____ we hold ourselves to.

“I no longer count on my own goodness and I no longer count on my own ability to obey God’s law. Instead I trust Christ to save me. For God’s way of making us right with himself is through faith.” (3:9)

Despite everything he’d _____, Paul no longer trusted in his own _____, but rather in God. He knew that true and lasting joy isn’t based on our _____, but on God’s _____.

When we’re living by grace, we know that God has forgiven us, and we _____ that same grace and forgiveness to others.

Daily Habit #2: _____.

It is often the _____ things that most often steal my joy

“All the things that I once thought were so important to me, I now consider worth nothing, because of Christ.” (3:7)

Paul realized that all the things the world tells us are so important don’t really mattered _____ to knowing Jesus.

Trap #2: _____.

The urgent, the _____, and the relevant are not necessarily what's most _____. If we want to be _____, we need to live our lives in light of _____; we need to focus not on what's _____, but on what's eternal.

“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared to the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ and become one with him.” (3:8)

Garbage = *skoobalon* =

We are called to _____ a lot of things that the world tells us are important in the here and now, in exchange for _____ in heaven that we cannot afford to lose.

Daily Habit #3: _____.

We were made to live in _____ with God, and so, if we think we can have true and lasting joy without growing in our relationship with Jesus, we're only _____ ourselves.

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his suffering, becoming like him in his death so that somehow I may be raised to life.” (3:10)

The ultimate goal in Paul's life—his sole purpose, focus, and reason for being—was to know Jesus _____ and _____. In order to do this, we need to understand the difference between knowing someone and knowing _____ someone. We don't get to know Jesus by _____. It is something we have to do something about.

Trap #3: _____.

“Be still, and know that I am God!” (Psalm 46:10)

Daily Habit #4: _____.

Once we've made the decision to follow Jesus, we begin a life-long process of _____ movement—of being _____ into His likeness. The problem is, some people have made a _____ about Jesus—they've said “yes” to Him and trusted Him for their salvation—but they haven't continued in the process—they haven't _____ in Christ or moved forward in their faith.

“Search me O God and know my heart; Try me, test me, and know my thoughts. See if there is anything evil or wicked in my life. And lead me in the way that's everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23-24)

“I don't mean to say I'm perfect. I still haven't learned all I should, but I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be. No, dear brothers, I'm still not all I should be..” (3:12-13)

Paul wasn't just _____ on his blessed assurance and waiting out the end of his life; he was still growing in his faith, still _____, still becoming more like Jesus.

Trap #4: _____.

_____ leads to joy because it helps us see ourselves as we truly are, and makes us much more _____.

Daily Habit #5: _____.

No one gets through life _____. We've all be _____ at some point in our lives. However, true and lasting joy requires _____ of the past and learning to _____.

We can hold onto our _____ or we can have _____—we can't do both. We have to make an intentional decision to seek _____, and to not allow the pain of our past to _____ our joy in the present, or our _____ for the future.

“I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.” (3:13-14)

We don't have an _____ supply of energy.

Trap #5: _____.

Trap #6: _____. Holding onto this makes us _____; keeps us stuck in the past; and prevents us from moving forward. This doesn't hurt anybody, but _____.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

Trap #7: _____.

Things rarely stay the _____ and try as we may, we can't stop _____ from happening. Faced with this reality, we have two choices: We can either _____, resent, and fight against change, which only leaves us _____, frustrated, and bitter. Or we can choose _____—we can choose, in the midst of all the change that's happening in and around us, to anchor ourselves to God and His eternal _____. However, no matter what we choose, we need to understand that how we handle change can reveal our level of spiritual _____ and how connected we are to God.