

*When coming to this study we ask that you pray first. Take the time to ask God to speak through his scripture. If you don't get to all of the questions but have spent time with God your task is accomplished.*

*Then before reading the questions read the word. You can use some of the notations below to track your reactions and thoughts as you go:*

**Inspire:** write a (!) beside what stands out positively so far and write a note about why

**Inquire:** write a (?) beside what doesn't make sense. Ask why it's there. OR by what raises a question for you.

**Irk:** write a (#!?) beside what rubs you the wrong way or creates dissonance.

**Require:** write a ( ) beside something that demands change within you

Underline or highlight phrases that stick out.

After you're done going through the passage. Take a few moments to review your notes.

Write one sentence off the cuff. Based on your first impression, what are you thinking? How may God be speaking?

Let these prompts below continue to guide your dialogue with God and lead you into deeper reflection on His word.

## **PHILIPPIANS- 3:1-21 ALL IS GARBAGE IN LIGHT OF CHRIST.**

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**Philippians 3:1-21** (Paul uses his own resume and example to push against false teaching in the church. We watch Paul, who had the resume, say that Jesus is the most important. He, who would seem to be so accomplished in his faith, humbly admits he is still pressing on to attain Christ).

### **Philippians 3:1-11**

- Consider the things that people treasure. Why do they treasure these things? Are they all bad?

- There is an evident struggle between Paul and legalist in this passage. Why is it important to resist legalism and false gospels?
- How would you explain the gospel?
- How can Effort be protected from legalism and false gospels?
- On what are you basing your assurance of salvation? Is it something you think about often?

Tony Merida and Francis talk about different sources of false confidence in their commentary on Philippians: ritual, ethnicity, tradition, rule-keeping, zeal, and obedience to the law. Are any of these sources enticing for you? Why?

- Why do you need Christ's righteousness?
- Believers have resurrection power, the Holy Spirit, the same power that raised Jesus from the grave. What might the Holy Spirit be trying to bring about in you?
- How does suffering for Christ enable us to know Christ more?
- How does the hope of your resurrection encourage you in your faith walk?

### **Philippians 3:12-21**

- How does the gospel humble you?
- What is the prize Paul pursues in verse 14?
- Why do we need passion and discipline to grow in spiritual maturity?
- Do you use past victories and successes as an excuse not to make every effort in the present? How so? How could you follow Paul's example to press on?
- Take a moment and pray/encourage everyone around the table.
- What are some characteristics of the "enemies of the cross" in verse 18?
- In what ways is Effort a little colony of the Kingdom of Heaven?
- How should the promise of Jesus' return affect the way you live your life?