



Paul's life is interesting because he chose to persecute, and even kill Christians. He had a very religious past, but when he met Jesus his life radically changed (see Acts 9). Paul starts Philippians 3 with what seems like the ending of the letter, but he is actually continuing his thoughts on being joyful. Paul used this opportunity to teach the church about false teachers. He longed for the church to know the truth of God. This meant leaving the good things of their life behind so they could grow in their faith. In these verses Paul teaches about the downfall of works-based righteousness versus the benefits of faith-based righteousness and following Christ.

1. Look over **Acts 9:1-17**. Saul was on a mission to persecute Christ-followers, but he was intercepted by Jesus. His meeting with Jesus radically changed his life. What is one thing that's happened in your life that has radically changed you?
2. Read **Philippians 3:1-2**. Paul warns the church about false teachers and the trouble they cause. Read **Exodus 7:11-13**, **2 Timothy 3:8-9**, **Matthew 23:13**, and **2 Peter 2:1**. Identify a false teaching you've come across and how you knew it was false.
3. Paul realized he had put his confidence in the wrong place (see **Philippians 3:4-6**). Read **2 Samuel 11:1-15** and **Mark 10:17-23**. When have you placed your confidence in the wrong place and how did it turn out?
4. Read **Philippians 3:7-9**. Paul explains his conversion and the resulting life change of having righteousness in Jesus. Read **Romans 3:23**, **5:8**, **6:23**, and **10:9-10**. Share about the moment you placed your trust in Jesus.
5. There is something special about having long-term relationships. Read **Philippians 3:10-11**. Paul wanted to know Jesus. Read **1 Samuel 3:1-10** and **Psalms 46:10**. How are you growing in your relationship with Jesus and learning to hear His voice?
6. Read **Philippians 3:12-14**. The phrase "one thing" is used throughout Scripture (see **Psalms 27:4** and **John 9:25**). What is one thing that is keeping you from following Jesus that you need to give up right now?
7. Paul was devoted to Christ, devoted to growing in the right direction, and he had a sense of determination as a Christian. Thinking about these three things, what would your closest friends say about what you're devoted to, your life's direction and your determination?
8. Close your time in prayer by praying for The City Center.