

Philippians: To Live is Christ, To Die is Gain

Session Six: Owned

Part A) Chandler opens with a reading of Psalm 63, and he provides an interpretation of David's love for God as one filled with great thirst and desire. Upon quoting other Psalms and referencing other verses, he makes clear there is a common feeling of great yearning among so many Biblical figures as they all wish to be close to, aware of, and in complete awe of God.

Why don't we, as present day people (Christians or those coming to faith), feel this same way about God?

Why are we so easily satisfied? Why aren't we terrified to not know God?

Part B) Chandler moves into Philippians Chapter 3, reading verses 1-4, "Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. **2** Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. **3** For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— **4** though I myself have reasons for such confidence" (NIV translation). Chandler identifies and speaks to the concept of legalism as presented by Paul in these verses, which is the failed understanding that salvation is found through certain actions, avoidances, or behaviours.

Have you ever taken an action, avoided an action, or found yourself behaving in such a way that you think you've found your golden ticket to salvation?

While moral accomplishments can be valuable markers or milestones in our journeys of faith, how might they also be barriers or hindrances?

Part C) "Since Christ is infinite, there will always be more of him to be had." When Chandler speaks these words, he has provided additional reasoning to support Paul's four reasons to put stock in Jesus Christ above all else: Christ, as God's son and our saviour, is worth knowing; Christ can inform true righteousness; Christ's suffering teaches; Christ's resurrection can be shared.

What stirs your affections for Jesus Christ?

How are you different from your spouse, or even a close family member?