

Sermon Title: Transformed by Humble Faith

Sermon Text: Philippians 3:1-16

Date: June 1, 2025

1. What's the toughest thing you've ever accomplished—something that required serious effort, training, or discipline?
2. In Philippians 3:1–7, Paul lists reasons he could have felt confident that he belonged to God's covenant family — but he says they're nothing compared to knowing Jesus. What “religious credentials” might the Philippians have been trusting in? What are some that people lean on today?
3. Read Philippians 3:7-9. The Greek word **γινώσκω** (ginosko) means knowing in a personal, relational way. What is the difference between knowing *about* Jesus and knowing Him *personally*? What does that look like practically in your life?

4. Read Philippians 3:10–11 and Galatians 2:20. For Paul, knowing Jesus means being joined to his life — especially his suffering, death, and resurrection. Where have you experienced parts of Jesus’ life in your own story?

5. Read Philippians 3:12–16. Paul uses two words to describe how he approaches his spiritual life: *diōkō* (dee-oh-kho) — to run after or pursue — and *epekteinomai* (eh-peck-tee-no-my) — to stretch out or reach toward. Do you usually think of your relationship with God as something that requires this kind of effort? Why or why not?

“Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning.” — Dallas Willard¹

6. As sinners, we are naturally more anxious to be free from guilt than free from sin. But Paul reminds us that our true goal isn’t just forgiveness—it’s a new way of life. What motivates Paul to keep growing in maturity? What motivates you in your own life?

¹ Willard, Dallas. *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus’s Essential Teachings on Discipleship*. HarperOne, 2006, p. 61.