

Bible Study for Sept 28 – Oct 4

You are encouraged to take some time to reflect on the scripture and the questions provided either individually, or with members of your household.

Read: Philippians 3:4b-14

Notes:

In New Testament times, a Jew could take great pride in following the law to the letter. Those who were the most zealous were looked up to by others as being outstanding citizens in Jewish society. Paul at one time had been the most zealous of them, following all the rules precisely, at one time feeling it was his life's purpose in doing so.

In this lesson however, Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him now to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

Questions to Ponder:

If you had to brag about what you can do better than others, what would it be?

What did you cherish 10 years ago? 20 years ago? 40 years ago? How do you feel about them later in life? What changed your thinking?

In your dream of the ideal lifestyle, are you more like a pioneer (always pushing on), or a settler (attempting to settle down)?

In verses 12-14 Paul uses the imagery of a track race. What prize is he after? How does he envision himself getting it?

Comparing your spiritual life to a race, are you sitting it out due to lack of practice, an injury, or no warm up? Are you at the starting blocks? Going full-tilt? Ready to give up? Why? What "hurdles" seem especially hard to jump?