



Pastor Toby Locke  
Week 10  
3/11/18

Thinking Right-Side Up  
In an *upside-down* World

...about What God Wants

(Philippians 3:1-11)

Introduction: Humanity has always struggled to figure out what it is that God really wants from us. Most give up & stop trying.

So, What Does God Want from Us?

**The Wrong Answer... RELIGION!!!**

\*Why? Because it shifts all my confidence and hope to myself.

- My Religious Lineage (3:5a)
- My Moral Achievements (3:5b-6a)
- My Moral Status (3:6b)

**The Correct Answer...**

Put our confidence and hope in Jesus alone.

\*What does that look like?

- Reject all other substitutes. (3:7-8)
- Receive a good standing with God as a gift. (3:9)
- Pursue a deep, daily relationship with Jesus. (3:10-11)

Conclusion:

Who or what are you going to depend on to be "good" with God?  
Yourself or Jesus?

Which "chair" will you sit in?

FIRST BAPTIST HORSEHEADS  
**LIFE GROUPS**



Debrief Plan: 3/11/2018 Icebreakers:

1. If it were within your power, would you eliminate winter?
2. Did you ever have a teacher or a boss who was difficult to please? Did things ever improve as time went on?

Sermon Summary: God has communicated clearly what He wants from us. He is not impressed by our lineage, accomplishments, or status as moral people, because they cause us to shift all our confidence and hope onto our own abilities and skills. The only way to be "good" with God is to put all of our confidence in Jesus. In order to pull this off, we have to reject the substitutes, receive our relationship with God as a gift, and then spend the rest of our lives pursuing a deep relationship with Jesus.

Discussion Questions: (*Read Philippians 3:1-11 together.*)

1. Which view of God is more common in our culture – God as "senile grandfather" or "furious judge"? Which is more dangerous & why?
- \* **The Wrong Answer: Religion**
2. Do you think of religious people as more dangerous than openly immoral people? Why or why not?
  3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of coming from a Christian family? Of coming from a totally secular family?
  4. What moral achievements do we tend to highly value, maybe even be too impressed with in "church-world"?
- \* **The Right Answer: Put Confidence & Hope in Jesus.**
5. How do we make sure that doing good deeds and working towards spiritual achievements (which we're supposed to do, right?) never becomes a substitute for Jesus?
  6. On a scale of 1-10, how hard is it for you to approach God with "empty hands"? Why is that?
  7. What kind of sufferings do you think that you could SHARE with Jesus? Why would Paul actually WANT that?
  8. Why does Paul seem so excited about "the resurrection from the dead"? What's the big deal?