

Knowing Christ

Philippians 3:1-11

Introduction

Do you think people are good at heeding warnings? Why do you think this is the case?

The apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians reminding them of things as a safeguard for them. Please read verses 1 to 11 of chapter 3 to better understand what they needed to be careful of.

Be careful (1-3)

Paul issues a warning in the first three verses of chapter 3. Please read these verses again.

1. Who did the Philippians need to be careful of and why do you think Paul referred to them in the way that he did? To better understand the problem that these people were causing you might like to refer to Acts 15:1-5; Gal 2:11-21; 5:1-12; 6:11-18; Titus 1:10-11).

2. What was the danger that these people posed for the Philippians?

3. What did the Philippians need to remember and how would this be a safeguard for them? How might remembering this also be a safeguard for us today?

False confidence (4-7)

Paul uses his own experience as a devout Jew to highlight the folly of putting your confidence in the flesh. Please read again verses 4 to 7.

4. What were the privileges that Paul had been born into and what achievements might he at one time highly prized?

5. How did he know now regard these things and why (see also Galatians 2:15-21)?

6. What things are people today tempted to put their confidence in rather than wholly trusting God's grace in Christ Jesus?

Knowing Christ (8-11)

Paul goes on in verse 8 to 11 to talk about the great value of knowing Christ. Please read these verses.

7. How does everything compare to the value of knowing Christ? What do you think Paul means when he says "everything" and why would he say this?

8. Why is knowing and gaining Christ so valuable?

9. What was Paul's goal in life, and do you think this ought to be way that all those who know Christ ought to be thinking about life (see also Phil. 1:20-21 and 1 Peter 4:12-16 with respect to suffering)?

Conclusion

10. What do you think that we need to be careful of today and what sort of people will we be like if we are being careful?