

3. Struggling well means living with the end in mind.
(Philippians 3:11-12)

Table Talk

- 1) What are some ways in which Christians throughout the ages have counted things as loss for the sake of Christ? What are some ways in which you have counted things as loss? (v. 7-8)
- 2) What is the “surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord”? (v. 8) In what present circumstances are you finding the surpassing worth of knowing Christ? Why does Paul direct his “all things” not just as loss but also as “rubbish”? Why is that an even greater forsaking of our personal ambition? What is some “garbage” that you need to forsake?
- 3) What two pathways for righteousness does Paul describe in verse 9? Why is one not the way to go, and why is the other the way that Paul goes? What is God’s role in this true righteousness? What is the role of faith in this righteousness from God?
- 4) What three goals does Paul describe in verse 10? How do those goals compare to the usual goals that people set? How might these three goals reorient your ambitions? How does Paul use the language of “form” in 2:6 and 2:7? The phrase in 3:10, “becoming like him,” uses that same idea of “form.” How does that express the goal of all of life for the believer?
- 5) What is the end that Paul has in view for himself? (v. 11) How can we keep this end in mind for ourselves and never have it leave our thinking? How does Paul express that, even with this beautiful goal of the end, life still has to be lived? What does Paul “press on” to make his own? How is that actually an expression of thanksgiving to God for His salvation in Christ? (v. 12)