

Sermon Reflections

Marks of a True Worshipper (Philippians 3:1-7)

Summary: True worship to God must unite around Jesus Christ and His gospel.

Strive for unity and emulate these five marks of true worshippers:

1. Find Joy in the Safety of Christ (v. 1)

- Paul tells the Philippian Church to have joy in the Lord. How would you evaluate the level of joy you have in the Lord today? What things typically bring you more joy than your joy in the Lord? What can you do to have more joy/delight in Christ? What do you tend to find joy/safety in during this current pandemic? If everyone at GBC had much delight in Christ, how would that bring greater unity in our body?

2. Watch Out for False Worship (v. 2)

- Paul warns the believers at Philippi to be on high alert for the false teachers and not to be influenced by the Judaizers. Who are the false teachers of our day that might tempt us to stray from the true gospel?
- The Judaizers were adding works of the law as a requirement for salvation. If someone told you that works are required for salvation, what Bible passages could you use with them to clearly show that salvation is not by works but through faith alone?

3. Worship Only by God's Spirit (v. 3a)

- Paul says that true believers are the true circumcision. Read Romans 2: 28-29 regarding circumcision. In this text how is a Jew described? Circumcision is described in two different ways. What are these two ways? How does the teaching of Paul compare to what Jesus told Nicodemus in the 4th chapter of the Gospel of John?

4. Boast Only in Christ Jesus (v. 3b)

- What does it mean to glory/boast in Christ Jesus? What/who are you inclined to boast about other than in Christ? Are you likely to boast about yourself like the Pharisee did in Luke 18:11? Do you find it easy or difficult to boast about Christ? What are some things that you could boast about Him to others? What would it take for you to get into the habit of boasting more about Christ to others – both believers and non-believers?

5. Depend Not on Ourselves (vv. 3c-7)

- In Paul's past he had great confidence in himself and his abilities. But in verse 7, Paul now sees that what used to be gain is now considered loss. What changed in Paul's life to cause him to have a reversal in his thinking? Have you had a similar change in your own personal experience?