

# Joy in the Adventure

## October 29, 2006

# “The Core Values”

## Philippians 3:1-11

### Introduction: Core Values (“Built to Last” by Jim Collins)

#### I. Core values are our fuel;

*Finally, my friends, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Philippians 3:1*

- Repeat the vision & values (ours are on the website [www.tmumc.org](http://www.tmumc.org))

#### II. The core value

- One simple rule: It is Christ+nothing;

#### III. Judaizers tried to change the core values

- After you believe— you must be circumcised & obey ritual laws
- <sup>2</sup>Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. <sup>3</sup>For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—  
<sup>4</sup>though I myself have reasons for such confidence Philippians 3:2-4
- Are there modern day Judaizers?

#### IV. Paul’s credentials

- *If anyone thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. Phil 3:5,6*

#### V. The Core of Christianity (Philippians 3:7-11)

- <sup>7</sup>But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. Phil. 3:7,8
- Knowing Christ Jesus as my Lord  
*I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. Phil 3:8,9*
- Righteousness from God and is by faith.  
<sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Phil 3:10,11
- To attain the resurrection of the dead

Conclusion: Join the “Christ + 0” plan

## Study Guide October 29, 2006

## “The Core Values” Joy in the Adventure

**Monday** - Yesterday we learned the Christ + 0 Plan. As the “apostle to the Gentiles,” Paul argued against a sincere, devoted, biblically based group call “Judaizers” in the debate that Gentile converts did not have to be circumcised, that is, become Jews first, before they became Christians (*Acts 15:1-5*). His arguments were accepted by James and the church council at Jerusalem that was held about A.D. 49. The real threat to Christianity may well not be those who don’t believe in Jesus...but those who do then try to add other requirements. (*Galatians 1:4-7*) Can you think of any modern day Judaizers? Those who suggest that in addition to accepting Christ you must think, act, feel, or be a certain way?

**Tuesday** – We continue our study of Paul and his harsh debate with the Judaizers today. Paul, considered himself “a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee” (*Phil. 3:5*) and historically we know had been more zealous in his pursuit of Judaism than his peers (*Gal. 1:13, 14*). It is amazing that he came to the radical conclusion that a true Jew is not one who was physically descended from Abraham (compare *John 8:31-41*), adhered to the Torah or Law of Moses (*Rom 2:17, 28*) and was circumcised.

**Wednesday** - For Paul the true lineage of God is found in one who believes that Jesus is the Messiah or Christ (*Gal. 3:26-29*), relies on God’s grace and not works of the law (*Eph. 2:8, 9*), and has been circumcised in his heart by the Holy Spirit (*Gal. 2:2-9; 5:6*). In spite of his grief that most of his fellow Jews did not accept his message, Paul did not teach that God had abandoned the Jews but believed that God still has a plan for them (*Rom. 9-11*).

**Thursday** – Last Sunday Kelly, chair of Trietsch’s Finance Committee kicked off our annual stewardship Campaign. It is important to remember that the “Christ +0” plan means that our giving can’t “buy” our way into a right relationship with God! Tithing for the Christian is not a matter of following the law, but is a matter of attitude. Paul taught that “*Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times; having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.* 2 Corinthians 9:7

**Friday** - Paul listed his credentials *Phil 3:4-7*, and then was careful to proclaim that none of our credentials mean anything to God when it comes to our salvation. That comes only as a gift of faith in Jesus Christ. (*Philippians 3:9-11*) Take a moment before the weekend and ask yourself: “What would I list as my “credentials” that would impress God enough to earn my way into heaven? Have you let go of believing that anything, other than your faith in Jesus will get you there?”