

Sermon Notes – March 13, 2016
**“The Surpassing Greatness
of Knowing Christ”**
Philippians 3:1-11
Pastor Bill Hoffman

The key phrase “confidence in the flesh” (verses 3-4) is best understood by the context of verses 5-6.

- Put into your own words what Paul means by this phrase.
- What reasons does Paul give for why he might have had “confidence in the flesh”?
- What are some equivalents for people today?

The word “righteousness” (verse 9) is used often in Scripture – over 500 times in the Old Testament and 225 times in the New Testament – and with various connotations. The most similar use in Paul’s writings seems to be Romans 1:16-17, 3:21-31.

- What is the difference between a righteousness of our own making and the righteousness that comes by faith in Christ?
- Why do you think many people find the latter difficult to embrace?

Imagine if the equivalents in your life of what Paul says of himself in verses 5-6 were suddenly taken away.

- Would “the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus” as your Lord be sufficient to sustain you?
- To give you joy?
- What helps you to recognize this “surpassing greatness of knowing Christ” and live in light of this reality?