

## Religion that Steals Our Joy Philippians 3:1-11

*None of us will ever be able to earn a right standing before God; we will always fail at that. There is \_\_\_\_\_ in that failure. And if there is no joy, then it is not from God. "Rejoice in the Lord. Always."*

**Discussion 1. Are there circumstances that sometimes make you try to earn God's favor? Knowing that we cannot earn God's favor actually adds to our joy. Why?**

*If I am not willing to surrender my political preferences, my social ideologies, even my very identity for the sake of Christ, then I do not really understand what it means to \_\_\_\_\_. "Whatever gain I had, I count as loss for the sake of Christ."*

**Discussion 2. What are some things we tend to count as gain in this life but are nothing compared to knowing Christ? Do you have an "identity" that others might think is more important to you than your identity in Christ?**

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he \_\_\_\_\_."  
\_\_\_\_\_." Jim Elliot*

**Discussion 3. How would you explain to a nonbelieving friend that the gospel of Jesus Christ actually sets you free and brings you joy?**

*There is joy in clarity of mission. In the midst of political turmoil, in the midst of pandemics, in the midst of a broken world, a Christ follower's daily goal is to \_\_\_\_\_ . Eye on the prize.*

**Discussion 4. What kinds of daily disciplines do you rely upon in order to know Christ more? How does that simple goal bring clarity to your day? How does that bring joy?**

**Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?**