

What if God escaped!

³ It is we who are the true circumcision; we who worship by the Spirit of God; who glory in Christ Jesus; and who put no confidence in the flesh.

1. The theology I use on v3

I know about the

I know about

I know about

⁴ However, If anyone could have that confidence, it is me.

2. The theology I use on v4-6

⁵ I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew born of Hebrews. As far as keeping the Jewish Law is concerned, I was a Pharisee. ⁶ As for my zeal, I was a persecutor of the church. As far as righteousness in the Law is concerned, I was blameless.

I am

I am

I am

I am

3. Theology that works v7-9

Christ's virtues become my

Christ's person become my

Christ's presence become my

Christ's program become my

Jesus has the building

⁷ But whatever was an asset to me, I now count as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything as loss, because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. It is for His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the Law, but that which comes through faith in Christ; the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

Thought starters for personal reflection, or group discussion

1. How did your spiritual life seem to you, before you became a real Christian?
2. If God was allowed out of church, list the places to which He would want to go.
3. What is your biggest worldly doing; and in what ways has it contributed to your spiritual growth?
4. How is it possible to acknowledges past successes (Phil.3:5-6), but still consider them rubbish (Phil.3:7-8)?
5. What are the hallmarks of today's equivalent of Pharisees? Why do you think the world loves them? How is Christianity different?
6. What are some advantages of having a good knowledge of the Bible; Jesus; theology; etc.? What ways are most helpful for you in gaining that understanding?
7. Read John 16:7-11. What are the 3 priority areas for the Holy Spirit, and why does He focus on them?

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