



SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”

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Scripture: Philippians 3:10-11

TITLE: Which Path Will You Choose?

I’m directionally challenged. If it wasn’t for GPS, I could likely get lost in my own backyard. Well, okay, it’s not that bad, but I’m amazed how easily I can get turned around. I think this happens to everyone more often than we care to imagine. We get to crossroads in our lives that we look left, and then we look right. Sometimes, the path isn’t clear. It’s a bit of a gamble. But many other times, we know the way we should go, but we choose to try our way, only to end up lost and heartbroken.

Well, the Apostle Paul points out an important crossroad every person must face. Which one is that? Let’s listen to Paul in Philippians 3:10-11 (NLT):

“I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!”

Paul has been talking about two paths: the path of religion or the path of relationship. It’s the path of legalism versus the path of faith. We all come to these crossroads. Apart from Christ, it may not be as clear which way to turn. For the believers, it’s often obvious, but we go our own way.

Paul has chosen. He declares, “I want to know Christ.” A lot of people know Christ. They have notions of him. They mold him from what they have read, want to believe, and what fits their desires. But they *don’t* know Christ. Paul knew Christ and wanted to know Him more and more - so much so, that he “wanted to suffer with him, even sharing in His death.”

I don’t know about you, but that’s not a thought or a prayer I have very often – if ever. But Paul knew that Christ paid a high price for our salvation. And it was both duty and honor to go where Jesus called, no matter if it meant success or suffering. Paul recognized it was no dishonor to suffer for Christ. It was an honor, and ultimately led to the Resurrection. The Resurrection offers salvation for our souls, sanctification for our lives, and security in our eternity. That’s the path Paul chose. Which one will you choose?

So that’s my challenge for you today: Which path are you on? Are you still unsaved? Are you walking down the path to Hell? Jesus says, “I love you. I came to die and rise from the dead for you! Turn from your sin. Turn to me and believe.”

Now, the majority of us [here] have chosen to follow Jesus. But maybe you’re taking a detour into legalism or license. Both lead to heartache and regret. But Christ offers you the path to life

and life to the fullest. Will you come back and follow Jesus? When we choose the right path each moment of each day, we will win the day.