

Week 5: The Greatest Pursuit

We live in a world that tells us to find our confidence in what we accomplish, accumulate, and achieve. But the apostle Paul discovered that everything he once considered valuable was nothing compared to knowing Jesus. When we stop placing our confidence in temporary things and make knowing Christ our greatest pursuit, we discover a joy that circumstances can't steal, suffering can't destroy, and even death can't defeat.

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul had an impressive religious résumé, but he ultimately considered it all loss compared to knowing Christ (vv. 4–8). What are some things people today tend to build their identity, worth, or confidence around? Which of those are you most tempted to rely on?

2. Paul says that knowing Jesus is worth more than anything else (v. 8). What does it practically look like to make knowing Jesus the greatest pursuit of your life? How would your priorities, decisions, or use of time change if that were genuinely true?

3. Paul contrasts righteousness based on personal achievement with righteousness received through faith in Christ (v. 9). Why is it so difficult for us to stop measuring our standing with God by our spiritual performance? How can we pursue spiritual growth without slipping into a performance-based relationship with God?

4. Paul wanted to know both the power of Christ's resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings (vv. 10–11). We often want the power without the suffering. How have difficult seasons deepened your relationship with Jesus? What does it mean to experience resurrection hope in the middle of suffering rather than simply waiting for suffering to end?

5. Where is following Jesus currently requiring sacrifice, surrender, or obedience in your life? What might you need to remove from your "confidence box" to make knowing Jesus your greatest pursuit?