

2 CORINTHIANS CH: 11:16 – 31

PHILIPPIANS CH: 3: 4 (second half) – 11

LAUNCH

Name someone in any field of activity that you admire for their perseverance or endurance. What is it about them or what they did that you admire?

DISCOVERY

If you were to take this passage and divide it into key themes (avoiding those used on Sunday) how would you do it?

- What overall impression of Paul do you get from this passage?
- What overall impression of Christ (slightly trickier) do you get from this passage?

UNDERSTANDING

Read Philippians 3 (4b – 11). In the Corinthian passage, Paul is keen to establish his Jewish credentials. In Philippians he is trying to undermine them.

What different objectives is he pursuing in both these passages?

- In Philippians, Paul makes it crystal clear that our status needs to be founded in Christ alone. What false areas of status can we find ourselves clinging on to? What might the negative consequences of this be?
- In John 15:5 Jesus says “without me you can do nothing”. What exactly does he mean by this?
- In what key areas of your life do you need to be more connected to the life or power of Christ?
- What might that area look like if you were more dependent on Christ to see it succeed?
- What stupid things can get in the way of our dependence on Christ in these key areas?
- Why is perseverance such an important quality for a Christian leader?
- “One of God’s cures for weak faith is a good healthy struggle” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
- If a non Christian critic was to say your Christian life was a sham how would you respond?
- What kind of life situations have you found the toughest to endure? How has God been alongside you during these times?

APPLICATION

Pray we find our status in Christ alone

- 1) Pray for the different areas of church work that we are involved in.
That we would be empowered by Christ & not human ability.
- 2) Pray for those who are finding life tough at the moment.
That God would give strength to persevere.