

*Descent into Joy*

**The Joy of New Beginnings**

Philippians 3:1-21

1. What are some of the ways that you have sought to focus on your “spiritual resumé” over time as a Christ-follower? Have you been able to successfully hold those accomplishments in their proper perspective when compared to knowing Christ or have they become the focus of your own righteousness?

2. Paul speaks of his desire to “know Christ; the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings.” How have you come to know that power in your own life? How have you participated in His sufferings in some measure? Finally, how has your life been changed by these experiences?

3. In your own words, describe the goal in your own life that Paul references in verses 12-14. With that goal in mind, specifically how will you seek to honor God in arriving at that goal? What will need to change in your life in order to focus on that goal?

4. As you think about the fact that our citizenship is in heaven even now while we are on Earth, how does that change your worldview? What would be the implications for the church if we lived in that specific citizenship over the citizenship of our world?