Sunday 12th October – Connect Group Notes

Our Identity is in Christ

Philippians 3: 1-14

1. Phil 3: 12 - 14

What aspects of the imagery of running the race that Paul is using here do you find the most helpful? Think especially about (1) pressing on (2) forgetting what is behind

(3) achieving the goal.

2. We can start well, but stumble “running the race”. How can we encourage each other and recognise that Jesus has “hold of “us? Share any personal experiences when you have felt the Lord beside you, especially in testing/ challenging times. How can we all be part of this process of supporting each other?

3. How does Paul understand our achieving of a right standing (righteousness) before God? See vs 8 - 9.

4. Why do you think Paul specifically refers to Jesus’ death and resurrection in vs 10 -11? How does this relate to the hymn about Christ in ch 2: 6 - 11?

5. What does it mean to you to say, “I want to know Christ more”?

How can we help one another to do this?

6. Why do you think that Paul was so opposed to the requirement of Gentile men being circumcised and the whole Christian church adopting Jewish identity markers e.g. Sabbath and food rules?

7. “As with the Psalmists, whose language Paul is using, the Lord who saves is both the basis and focus of joy, which in this imperative does not refer to a feeling but an activity. It means to verbalise with praise and singing.” Gordon Fee.

How can we encourage one another to rejoice?