

# STUDY NOTES

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

[www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message “The Righteousness of Christ” on 5/13/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

### PRAYER

*Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.*

### SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

### LEADING PEOPLE IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

There are some people within the church that can lead people the wrong way. This may even come unintentionally, but we need to watch out for teaching that doesn't align with the Scripture. The people in Paul's day were teaching that they needed to keep the Jewish Law in addition to placing their faith in Jesus. They were teaching a form of legalism.

- *Have you seen church leaders guide people in the wrong direction? If so, how obvious was it?*
- *What can you do yourself to guard against bad theology?*

### MY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

We tend to approach the Christian life knowing that we are saved through faith, but we think that we have to have our good actions outweigh our bad actions in order to keep God from getting angry at us. This is called legalism.

- *If you have experienced a legalistic system, what did it do to your heart?*

### COMPARING RIGHTEOUSNESS

If we believe that Christ's righteousness is all we need to please God, but then we try to work harder to please God ourselves, what we are really saying that Jesus's righteousness isn't good enough. This is why Paul calls anything that we have to boast about a crass term for poop.

- *How does working harder in an effort to please God just lead to pride?*

### BUT WON'T I JUST SIN MORE?

People are often afraid that without legalism, people will just keep sinning. However, when we understand the depth of righteousness in which Jesus lived for us, it will motivate us to want to be like him. The commands of Jesus are for our own good and for the good of other people.

- *Why do you think that truly understanding what Jesus did for you will motivate you to live more like him?*
- *In a season of your life where you felt like you were following Jesus closely, how did you experience the goodness of Jesus's commands?*
- *Pray with each other that we would understand the depth of Jesus's righteousness given to us.*