

DEVELOPING AN “IF NOT” FAITH
SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11,
DEUTERONOMY 34:10, HEBREWS 11:13
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Main Point: Knowing Christ is the greatest thing we can ask for in this life.

INTRODUCTION

- Last week Pastor Dan highlighted our covenant relationship with God from Jeremiah.
- What happens when walking with Jesus doesn't go the way we were expecting it?
- It's easy to see our relationship with Jesus as transactional.
 - “I'll trust You as long as You _____.”
- When we say yes to Jesus we surrender our lives to what He wants to do with them.
- What does it look like to have an “if not” faith?
 - Trusts Him regardless of circumstances.
 - Focused less on the gift, and more on the Gift Giver.
- Do we really love Jesus, or do we love the idea of Jesus?”

I. FULLY SATISFIED WITH CHRIST ALONE

- Philippians 3:1-11
- Paul is writing from jail. Addressing false teaching perpetuated by Jewish Christians.
- Saying for Gentile Christian's, right standing with God was contingent upon old customs.
- Paul was emphasizing a new covenant, grounded in the cross, the redeeming act of Jesus.

- To Paul, his Jewish heritage was considered worthless compared to knowing Jesus.
- What we see in Paul is a peace that comes only from being fully satisfied in Christ alone.
- So many of us have made it just a Sunday morning relationship.
- It's so much more than that, it finds value in knowing Jesus...becoming more like Jesus.
- This is an “if not” faith. I am fully satisfied in Christ.

II. HOW TO DEVELOP “IF NOT” FAITH

- Spending time in the Word, growing in the knowledge of Him.
- Spending time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to work in us.
 - How do You want to change our perspective?
 - What are You calling us to die to today?
- Preach the Gospel to ourselves.
 - Reminding ourselves of what He's done for us.
 - The cross is enough.
- Many of us have an “if and only if faith”.
 - A faith that is contingent upon external conditions.
 - This is not a covenant. This is a contract.
- Jesus is not our genie, He is our God.
- Jesus created a covenant for us based the cross.
- The question for us: Is that enough? Is Jesus enough?

CONCLUSION/CHALLENGE

- Deuteronomy 34:1-10
- Moses was blessed because he had a deep relationship with the Creator God, and he knew Him face to face.
- Regardless of circumstances, we can know Christ.
- We can be in a transforming relationship with Him.
- Is that enough for us?