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SERMON OUTLINE

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The Power of the Cross

Philippians 3:2-9

- I. People assume they qualify for heaven by who they are or what they do (Philippians 3:2-6).
  - A. The Judaizers insisted that a person must be circumcised to be saved (3:2)
  - B. The truly saved are those who worship by the Spirit, trusting in Christ alone – not human effort (3:3).
  - C. If anyone could be righteous by human effort, Paul could (3:4).
  - D. If being born into a religious tradition could make someone righteous, Paul was that (3:5).
  - E. If being zealous for God and keeping religious rules could make someone righteous, Paul did that (3:6).
  
- II. What most people think qualifies them for heaven is actually worthless – we need Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:7-8).
  - A. Paul found out that everything he used to think about becoming righteous was wrong – when he understood Christ (3:7).
  - B. In fact, Paul had to admit all his righteousness was rubbish in order to gain what only Christ gives (3:8).
  
- III. We can receive God’s righteousness only through personal faith in Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:9).
  - A. *Not a righteousness of my own*: My own righteousness based on doing good things is worthless to God (Romans 3:20-22; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).
  - B. *Righteousness that comes from God and is by faith*: God’s righteousness is applied to our account through faith in Jesus Christ who died in our place.

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*Open Door Bible Church 4-1-12*

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