

What Do They Emphasize at Your Church?

Philippians 3:4b-14

I've known few ministers and even fewer churches that join Paul in the emphasis he accented in this text. Have you met many church leaders who eagerly seek Christ's resurrection power? Sundry religious front-runners seek to strongly influence people in their communities. Other church superiors display their oratorical skills, their divinity degrees, prestigious members, elegant robes, and imposing buildings. Some like to brag about their organists, choirs, and praise teams.

None of the above meant anything to Paul and does not to the Lord. The Apostles would have quickly passed on the "gifts extraordinaire" in which most of us like to glory. They understood that all of the above will one day be of scant consequence—rubbish (the Greek word Paul used means *manure, muck, dung*).

Only Christ and the power of his resurrection can get us past God's Judgment. Only they will qualify us for the Day of the Lord. Are you focused on the lifestyle, desire to honor God, and humble loving commitment the Lord expects from his servants?

Do you hope in the permanent things of God or the world's possessions that age and pass away? All impressive human attainments and possessions will soon decay and eventually be defunct, obsolete, extinct, invalid-excrement.

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