Sermon Summary

In this passage, Paul is continuing his argument against the Judaisers who he described in v2 as, “those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh…” Paul boils down the problem to one simple principle: Where are they putting their confidence (and where will they lead you to put yours)?

Personal Application

Q Can you think of any well-known people (or celebrities) who have a reputation for being good? What is it about them that makes people think of them as good?

Q Read v3-6. What is the point that Paul is making here? How would the Judaisers have assessed this CV?

Q Read v7-9. How does Paul now think about all of his former credentials? What has led him to think this way?

Q What does Paul mean by “righteousness” in v9? Where does Paul say that he is now seeking to obtain this? Why can’t he get it from the law? What is the difference between the righteousness of v6 and this new righteousness?

Q Read v10-12. What sorts of things are we tempted to put our confidence in instead of Christ?

Q If Paul hasn’t yet “obtained all this” (v12) then what reason does he have to be so confident?
**Sermon Summary**

The dominating picture in this passage is that of an athlete running a race. This is used as a picture of the Christian life and how it is that we make progress towards that which should be the goal of our lives; to know Christ and to become as like Him as possible. Paul’s advice for running this race is that we should forget what is behind (v13), strain towards the goal (v14), follow good examples (v17) and remember that we are citizens of heaven (v20).

**Personal Application**

**Q** What is the trickiest new skill that you have ever learned? How long did it take you?

**Q** Read v13-16. What is it that Paul hasn’t yet taken hold of? (What is his goal?) How is he planning to try and win this prize? What does this tell us about making progress in the Christian life?

**Q** Read v17-19. Have you followed any good examples in your life? What makes someone worth following? How is this very different from those described in v18-19?

**Q** Read v20-21. How does it help us to remember that our citizenship is in heaven?

**Q** If the Christian life requires hard work and effort, how do we stop ourselves from putting our confidence in ourselves rather than Christ (v3)?

**Q** Why do you think that sometimes we find it so hard to make progress in Christlikeness? How does this passage help us?
**Sermon Summary**

This passage contains a series of exhortations; we are to take all the good teaching of the previous chapter and start applying it in our personal lives and in that of the church. The church in Philippi seems to have been a really impressive assembly, and the Apostle clearly loves them, which is why he must now plead with them to get their thinking and their living right so that they can keep a good thing good.

**Personal Application**

**Q** What is the most trivial thing that you have ever seen two friends fall out over? What are the real reasons that people fall out with each other?

**Q** Read v2-3. What do we know about these two ladies, Euodia and Syntyche? How does Paul address them? What have they fallen out over?

**Q** What do you think it means to “agree with each other in the Lord”? Why are relationships between Christians so important? (cf. 1 John 4:19-21)

**Q** Read v4-7. What do these verses tell us about how we must learn to react to our circumstances? What do you think is the difference between anxiety and concern? Have you found what Paul say in v7 to be true in your experience?

**Q** What does it mean for your gentleness to be evident to all? When is it hard to react gently? How does it help to remember that “the Lord is near”?

**Q** Read v8-9. Where can we find things to think about that fit the description of v8? (consider Psalm 8:1-4). How can we think about such things more?