

Sermon Series: **TRANSFORMATION**

Sermon Title: The Month with Two Faces

Text: Philippians 3:7-14

**Discussion Questions:** In this passage the Apostle Paul is expressing the *Transformation* that had taken place in his life. With this year's emphasis on Transformation, how would you describe Transformation? How would you speak about the transformation that has taken place in your life?

During my introduction to today's message, I contrasted two lost individuals – King Herod and the Apostle Paul. From a spiritual viewpoint they were on opposite ends of the spectrum. King Herod was a horrible scoundrel and Paul was a moral do-gooder. I gave five brief reasons why I believe that Herod missed Christmas.

- Why do you think King Herod missed Christmas?
- The Apostle Paul, for the beginning part of his life, missed Christmas; why do you think that was so?
- On what end of the spiritual spectrum would you consider yourself before you came to receive Jesus as your Savior?

### **Read Philippians 3:1-6**

- Why do you think Paul says that it is a safeguard for you?
- How did the people to whom Paul refers (*and he also-for years*), put confidence in the flesh?
- From the flesh perspective, about what could Paul boast?

### **Read Philippians 3:7-11**

- Based on this passage, what was to Paul's profit? Why does he consider it a loss for the sake of Christ?
- How does Paul describe his "knowing Christ Jesus my Lord"?
- What does Paul consider garbage?
- How do you think Paul, and we also, are found in Christ? Compare: Galatians 2:20 and Ephesians 1:3-14
- From where should we get "righteousness"?
- What are some insights that you gained from verse 10 that are important in our walk with Christ?

### **Read Philippians 3:12-14**

- What do you think the reason is that Paul uses so many analogies from the Olympics in his various letters?
- The Apostle Paul is in prison in Rome as he writes this letter, do you think that Paul looks at his life as being finished?
- In this passage, what does Paul say he took 'hold of'?
- In Ephesians 2:8, Paul states that our Salvation is 'of faith and not of ourselves'. Why then does he put the word "straining", *which indicates effort*, in verse 13?
- What is Paul's goal and what should be ours?

### **Application:**

Based on what Paul presents in this passage, what is one thing that you need to put into your life in 2018 so that you can accomplish the goal?