



Welcome back Lockdown Lookouts...

How did you get on seeking to shine like stars this week? Did anyone spot you? It wasn't easy seeking not to grumble, but wonderfully I kept thinking about what Jesus had done and that helped me to be more thankful and less moany!

But now Paul has really confused me. I was going through the rubbish (as you do) and Paul has thrown some things out which I would have thought were the best thing going - being religious, try hard. I can't work out why Paul would think they were rubbish?

Can you help me understand the next part of his letter to the Philippians?

Yours

Jail Bird Joe

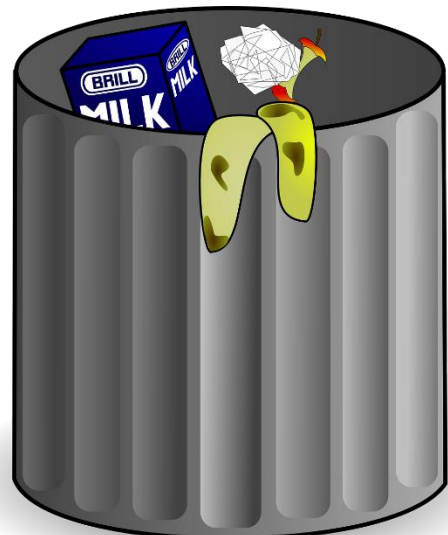
Opening Prayer

'Dear Heavenly Father, help us to know you better as we read from the Bible now, and to love Jesus more. Amen.'

Challenge

Garbage or Gold dust...?

Which of these things do you think should go in which container? The treasure chest for things you think are precious and the best, or the bin for things you think are not good at all...



- | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1) Being brainy | 2) New trainers | 3) Homework |
| 4) Banana skin | 5) Season ticket to your favourite sports club | 6) Being sporty |
| 7) Being pretty famous | 8) A broken toy | 9) Having to tidy your room |
| | | 10) Being |

Today, we are going to see what the Apostle Paul thought was gold dust and what was garbage in comparison!

Read Philippians 3:3, 5-9

I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could...I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6 I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ.

Chat it through

- **What did Paul used to think was important? (V5-6)**
 - Paul thought being very religious, having the best knowledge of the Bible, being from the right background, and following God's laws very closely were the most important things. He thought God would love and accept him because of them.
- **But what does Paul now think is the best thing in the world? (v8)**
 - Jesus and what he has done. Jesus is on infinite value to Paul. Knowing Jesus is the best thing.
- **What does Paul think of the things he used to think important now? (v8)**
 - He treats them as rubbish. Rather than them being gold dust, in comparison to knowing Jesus they are garbage! That is not to say some of the things we treat as precious (family or other things are not important - they are gifts from God. But in comparison to knowing and loving Jesus they are as precious as rubbish.
- **Why is Jesus 'gold dust'? (v7-9)**
 - Those things which Paul thought were gold dust at one point, and would make God love and accept him, he now realises could never make God love him, or having him back as his friend. Our sin is too big for us to undo our broken friendship with God just by being good

or religious. But wonderfully Jesus has done that. For the person who trusts Jesus he gives them his right standing with God, so we can be loved, forgiven and know him as friend!

- **What things do we tend to think are more precious or important to us? What things do we do which we think will make God like us?**
 - There might be lots of different answers - reading our Bible, going to church or Thursday Service, being good. Or our toys, a nice house or the best clothes...
- **Can they do that? Are they as precious as we think? Why/ Why not?**
 - They might be good but Jesus is so much better. Only he can make us friends with God again. Only he is really brilliant!

Pray it through

Today we are going to use the word GRACE to help our prayers. It is a Bible word which means God's undeserved kindness. That is what Paul found Jesus had come to bring! That's why he thought Jesus was so brilliant. But it cost Jesus everything. Sometimes the meaning of grace has been described as:

G - od's

R - ighteousness

A - t

C - hrist's

E - xpense

Split your prayers up into Thank you prayers - thanking God for his grace in Jesus, and Asking prayers - try and think of something beginning with each letter you could pray to God about, for example government, researchers, Ansdell...

NOW un pause the video on YouTube to continue...

Craft

Here are two colouring sheets to help us understand the brilliant news Paul found out.

The first one is [here](#). It shows the things we tend to think that will make us right with God again. But they can never do that. They are like mucky clothes in God's sight.

The second sheet is [here](#). Cut these out and cover the mucky clothes with them. This is what Jesus does when we trust him. He covers our wrong over with his goodness which he share with us, so God can see us a perfect in his sight.