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As with last week these homegroup notes will be a little shorter and simpler to make it more manageable for studying on zoom.

This week at Magdalen Road Church we continued our series in Philippians. In chapter 3v1-14 Paul introduces another set of opponents to the gospel who are threatening the church.

The threat that they bring comes from them preaching a message of confidence not in what Christ has done, but in the things that they do and their bloodline etc

### **1. Take your eyes off yourself**

Paul is very blunt in both his description of them but also in how he now regards those things that he could find confidence in (and the things they are finding confidence in). The reason he cares so deeply about this (and so speaks so bluntly) is because when we trust in the wrong things so we lose the heart of the gospel. Where these

opponents think they're on the inside, Paul makes it very clear that they are on the outside. This cannot just simply be a point of polite disagreement but rather things of first importance.

### **2. Fix your eyes on Christ**

Rather than looking at what we have, or what we have done, he urges us to wholeheartedly fix our eyes on Christ - What he has done and the future certain hope that we have in him. Paul is challengingly single-minded in his desire for sanctification and, through the power of the resurrection, to know Christ better.

#### **Here are a few questions to guide your conversation and application**

- Why does Paul now find the things he used to find confidence in so repulsive? How does he describe his opponents? Again why is he so blunt?
- What kind of things can we take wrong confidence in? How can we help each other to only trust in Christ?
- What does it mean to know Christ and what does it mean that we can know him better? How much is this a priority for Paul? How much is it a priority for us?