

## **PHILIPPIANS STUDY GUIDE**

**Assignment...read Philippians Chapter 3: 2-16. Paul again warns his friends about those preaching a different Gospel, returning to the old rituals like circumcision, to define themselves as the people of God. What strikes you about his tone here?**

**Paul states his “spiritual resume” ...to bolster his case, Paul recites his faith journey, what amounts to his list of credentials. If his interest had been in boasting, he would have more grounds for boasting than most people. Though an impressive list, Paul viewed all that he had achieved as “trash” when compared to the worth of knowing and serving Christ.**

**Forgetting the Past...having cleared the air about his concern, he shares what Dr. Shelton described as the “spiritual two step”: forgetting the past and straining forward to meet the future.**

**Forgetting the Past...our past, no matter what it may be, can be like unwanted luggage that we carry with us into the future. What in your past weighs you down? How do we let it go?**

**Leaning Toward the future...invoking the image of a runner, Paul adds that he strains toward the future, leaning as a runner would toward the finish line. Is that the way we meet the future: with joy and anticipation or a sense of dread? Paul, though in prison, was excited about the future he kept his eyes focused on his prize: the honor of being with Christ.**

### **Life Lessons Learned...**

**As you listened to Dr. Shelton’s presentation, what insights or life lessons did you learn?**