

Philippians 3:1-11

Placing Our Total Confidence in Christ

In this section, Paul focuses on the confidence we can have in Christ. While many people may depend on other things in life for a sense of hope, Paul shows the answer is solely in Christ!

> Paul states that at one time he could have been considered a “perfect” religious Hebrew. What are some of the Hebrew traits that he lists in which he could have boasted (vv. 1-6)?

He was circumcised, born a Jew, of the tribe of Benjamin (highly honored), a Pharisee (strictly obeyed the law), very zealous, faultless.

> In the same way, one could think that growing up in church or in a Christian home could mean that we are “super Christians.” What is wrong with placing confidence in such things? It causes us to focus on ourselves and not Christ, it is placing our trust in those things rather than in Christ.

> How would you summarize Paul’s deepest desire based on verses 7-11? Knowing and gaining Christ, being identified (“found”) in Him, solely relying on the righteousness which comes by faith.

Application

Trusting in our “own righteousness” can never bring the redemption provided by faith in Christ’s perfect righteousness. Apart from Christ, we really have nothing of which we can brag. However, in Christ, we have everything! Keep in mind:

- Our confidence in Christ gives us a true hope, for dependence on anything else is meaningless!
- Our confidence in Christ gives us a new passion, for it drives us to know Him and be like Him more!

Salvation is a life-changing decision, as is the pursuit to know our Creator and Savior better each day! We are dependent on Christ, and He is worthy to be relied on for all things! How is your pursuit of Christ continually changing your life?

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