



Pastor Derrick Shields “Philippians 3” 8/22/2021

Key Verses:

- Philippians 3:1-11

Key Thoughts:

- The church of Philippi had sent aid to Paul while he was in prison and in response, he sends them this letter of gratitude and encouragement. He's encouraging them in troubled times with joy.
- Paul tells them here clearly to put their confidence in Christ alone. He himself is an example today. He wants them to see in his own life how to make it through troubled times.

Lessons from the Testimony of Paul:

1. *Watch out for what would draw your attention away from Christ (3:2-3)*
 - He warns them against false teachers and those that would prey against young Christians and those who believe that there's more that you must do than believe
 - He then tells them to hold on to who they really are. He tells them that they are the circumcision, which was a tool to have power over people. We must beware that we don't fall into the same trap of putting something more on salvation than faith in Christ.
 - John 4:23-24 tells us that true worship is not a ceremony, it's deep speaking to deep. It's the spirit of God connecting with our spirit. Anything other than that isn't going to last.
2. *Put your confidence in Christ, not in yourself (3:4-6)*
 - Paul puts himself on the stand, showing all the things that would qualify him but saying that the one thing that qualifies him is his confidence in Christ.
 - He lists seven things that fall in two categories:
 - Confidence in our (1) **Background**: circumcised on eighth day (like being baptized on Easter), people of Israel (full Jew by birth), tribe of Benjamin (well-regarded tribe of Israel, Benjamin was the only one of Jacob's son born in the promised land, only tribe that stayed with Judah when modern tribes broke away), Hebrew of Hebrews – his background said that he was somebody
 - Confidence in our (2) **Achievements**: Pharisee (not only knew the law, he lived and breathed it, Acts 8:3), zealous regarding the law, blameless regarding the law
 - Despite all this, in verse 7, he says that he considers it all loss for the sake of Christ. Sometimes we act like we just need to make sure that our good outweighs our bad, but Paul takes everything in the good column and replaces it with Christ. Put your confidence in Christ, not just in yourself. Paul is pleading with this church and us to put our confidence in Jesus and to be led by the spirit.
3. *Make knowing Christ the supreme desire of your life (3:8-11)*
 - We don't want a petty righteousness that comes from following rules, but a real righteousness that comes from faith in Christ alone. Paul didn't know how his future



would end nor did he know the details, but he did know that he would get there through his faith in Christ.

Discussion Questions:

- What resonated with you from this message?
- Which of the three lessons from Paul's testimony do you feel God leading you to focus on most? How can you begin to do this?