

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3:4-7

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-900 JUNE 26, 2016

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED ?”

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Salvation, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

Introduction to the Text;

Philippians 3:4-7

Philippians 3:4-7

Though I also might have **confidence** in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, **I more so**: **5** ⁽¹⁾ circumcised **the eighth day**, ⁽²⁾ of the **stock of Israel**, ⁽³⁾ of the tribe of **Benjamin**, ⁽⁴⁾ a **Hebrew of the Hebrews**; concerning the law, ⁽⁵⁾ **a Pharisee**; **6** concerning zeal, ⁽⁶⁾ **persecuting** the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, ⁽⁷⁾ **blameless**. :7 But what things were **gain** to me, these I have counted **loss** for Christ.

The Most Renowned Conversion in Christian History

Paul is a rather remarkable man - - or should I say that, God took an incredibly proud and self-reliant, self-assured, self-righteous man and transformed his very existence.

His reasoning / logic / arguments and defense for becoming a Christian, is considered to be one of the greatest legal and literary contributions in history.

Unique is the fact that;
Saul of Tarsus was famously **“Good” – he was “Exceptional”** in his example.

Matthew 5:20

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

The rich, young ruler was unable to be saved

Luke 18:26

And those who heard it said, **“Who then can be saved?”**

Who Then Can Be Saved ?

1.) Only those who have experienced Jesus vs. 4-7

1.) No one who is trusting in rituals vs. 4-5a

Philippians 3:4-5a

If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, **I more so:**

(1) **:5** circumcised **the eighth day.**

Unique for Paul, he employs an uncomfortable and rare form of Apologetics.

He speaks in the first person about his “greatness” as a follower of the law and the Judaism of his day.

“Top this if you can you Judaizer”

measure these achievements against what you have going for you.

When he says

(1) **:5** circumcised **the eighth day.**

(2)

**In fact, the first four are inherited privilege
#1 my parents wanted me saved so here I am.**

Genesis 17:12

He who is **eight days old** among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations,

by Paul saying this, he is showing that the Judaizers doctrine makes no allowances for “conversion” – there is no “new life” opportunity.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

**Only those who have experienced Jesus
- Not those trusting in rituals.**

Who Then Can Be Saved ?

2.) **No one who is trusting in heredity** vs. 5b

If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, **I more so:**
(2) of the **stock of Israel**

inherited privilege #2
my national citizenship to Israel goes straight back to Jacob himself.

I didn't immigrate. I didn't relocate, I am not an import to the house of Israel.

I am equal to **Isaiah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist** –
I am 100% Israeli.

**Only those who have experienced Jesus
- Not those trusting in connections.**

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

Who Then Can Be Saved ?

3.) No one who is trusting in status

vs. 5c

If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, **I more so**
(3) of the tribe of **Benjamin**

inherited privilege #3
my placement in the most influential tribe

there was no greater tribe among the 12 that supplied more to the history of the Jewish people.

Benjamin was the only son born in the promised land of Jacob's
Benjamin was Jacob's favorite son.

Benjamin was the tribe that gave Israel their first king (Saul)

Benjamin was the most loyal of all the tribes to King David.

Benjamin was the location of the temple

A Danger in a Family name or position.

Only those who have experienced Jesus
- Not those trusting in a title or inheritance

Who Then Can Be Saved ?

4.) No one who is trusting in ethnicity

vs. 5d

If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, **I more so**
(4) a **Hebrew of the Hebrews**;

inherited privilege #4
I'm saved because my heritage is pure, unmixed
and 100% Kosher

Acts 26:4-5c

"My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know... :5c according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

This is Pedigree

born of a perfect lineage from a Hebrew mom and dad,
his **native language** was Hebrew/Aramaic which was rare in his day as most
Jews had Greek as their native tongue.

He was schooled according to the Hebrew culture and history.

Paul was “all things Hebrew.”

**Only those who have experienced Jesus
- Not those trusting in rank**

Who Then Can Be Saved ?

5.) **No one who is trusting in achievement** vs. 5d

If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, **I more so**
Concerning the law, **(5) a Pharisee;**

Earned privilege #1

I have earned my degrees, position and privileges.

**In our day the word or title “Pharisee” is an Insult.
But the label “Pharisee” in Paul’s day was an honor and a rarity.**

What was a Pharisee?

Why were they so powerful?

*Because a Pharisee was considered to be the gold-standard, the example,
the benchmark of what God would allow into heaven.*

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ,
even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and
not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

**Only those who have experienced Jesus
- Not those trusting in earned privilege**

Who Then Can Be Saved ?

6.) **No one who is trusting in devotion**

vs. 5f-6

If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, **I more so**
6 concerning zeal, (6) **persecuting** the church;

Earned privilege #2
He had an intense disgust for Christians

At the stoning of Stephen, Saul / Paul was the Overseer of it.

Acts 7:57-59

Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; **58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59** And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Acts 8:1

Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time **a great persecution** arose against the church which was at Jerusalem;

Until Paul Experienced Jesus Christ

Acts 9:3-5

As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?**" :5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.**"

Galatians 1:13-14

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. 14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

1 Timothy 1:12-13

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, **13** even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief.

**Only those who have experienced Jesus
- Not those trusting in passion**

Who Then Can Be Saved ?

7.) **No one who is trusting in externals**

vs. 6b-7

concerning the righteousness which is in the law, **(7) blameless.**
:7 But what things were **gain** to me, these I have counted **loss** for Christ.

Earned privilege #3

He had performed everything needed. He had checked every box. He had crossed every "T" and dotted every "I"

John 3:1-10

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." :3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." :4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" :5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." :9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" :10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"

Application Illustration(s)

10 drops of liquid cyanide /// 10 links to a chain

Clearly - It is possible for a person to live their entire lives assuming that they are saved and going to heaven and never respond to the voice of God.

Matthew 7:21-24

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22** Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ **23** And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ **:24** “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

John 1:12-13

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

COME TO CHRIST TODAY

End of Study

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