

The Fork In The Road

Philippians 3:1-11

Introduction

I Paul's Exhortation and Warning

- A. **Rejoice** in the Lord - Phil 4:4; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:16-18
 - 1. It is not trouble to write again - 2 Pt 1:12
 - 2. It is a **safeguard** for you - 2 Peter 3:1
- B. **Watch out** for dogs - Isa 56:10-11; Acts 15:1
 - 1. Men who do evil - Mt 7:22-23
 - 2. Men who are mutilators of the flesh - Gal 5:12
- C. **Remember** who we are:
 - 1. We are the circumcision - Gen 17:10-11; Rom 2:28-29
 - 2. We **worship** by the Spirit of God - Gal 4:17-18
 - 3. We glory in Christ Jesus - Ps 105:1-4
 - 4. We put no **confidence** in the flesh - Jn 15:5

II Paul's Fork in the Road

- A. His reasons to put confidence in the **flesh**
 - 1. He was circumcised on the 8th day - Gen 17:12
 - 2. He was from the people of Israel - 2 Cor 11:22
 - 3. He was from the tribe of Benjamin - Rom 11:1
 - 4. He was a Hebrew of Hebrews
 - a. In regard to the law – a **Pharisee** - Acts 26:4-5
 - b. As for **zeal**, persecuting the church - Gal 1:13-14
 - c. As for legalistic righteousness – **faultless** - Mt 5:20
- B. His reasons to put **no** confidence in the flesh
 - 1. He considered loss whatever was to his **profit** - Lk 9:25
 - 2. He considered **everything** loss
 - a. Compared to the surpassing greatness:
 - 1. Of **knowing** Christ Jesus - Jer 9:23-24
 - 2. Of knowing my Lord - Mt 13:44-46
 - 3. He considered all things lost as **rubbish**
 - a. That he might **gain** Christ - Ps 73:25
 - b. That he might be found **in** Him - Gen 7:23; 2 Cor 5:17
 - 4. He refused to pursue a righteousness from the **law**
 - a. But a righteousness that is **through** faith

- b. But a righteousness that comes from God
- c. But a righteousness that is **by** faith - Rom 1:16-17

III Paul's Desires

- A. He wanted to **know** Christ - Ps 27:4; 1 Jn 2:3; Mt 6:24
 - 1. The **power** of his resurrection - Eph 1:18-20
 - 2. The fellowship of his **sufferings** - 2 Cor 1:3-5
 - 3. The privilege of becoming like Him - Phil 3:17; 2 Tim 2:2
- B. He wanted to obtain to the **resurrection** - Rom 6:5; 1 Cor 6:14

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. If you had to brag about what you do well, what would you say?
- 2. In verse 2, Paul speaks sharply about the Judaizers who insisted on blending adherence to the OT Law with faith in Christ as the basis for salvation. Have you ever been tempted to think that salvation was based on faith “plus” something else?
- 3. Paul had an impressive resume! What heritage, talents or accomplishments do you tend to take confidence in? How can worldly “assets” become “liabilities” in following Christ?
- 4. Paul was driven by a desire to know Christ in a deeply personal way. Would you say that your knowledge of Christ is more informational/academic or more intimate/personal?
- 5. Take a few minutes to respond to God:
 - a. Rejoice in the Lord! Thank Him for who He is and what He has done. Ask for grace to live a joyful and thankful life!
 - b. Thank God that your righteous standing is based solely on Christ's finished work and not on anything you need to do.
 - c. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a renewed intensity of desire to personally, deeply and experientially know Christ!

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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