

Philippians 3:1-11 Gospel Centred Confidence

Do you think Christians should have self- confidence or not? If so what areas?

Read Philippians 3:1-11

1. What is Paul's warning about in verse 1-2? Why do you think he comes on so strong? Also see Galatians 1:6-7, 6:11-15, Revelation 22:14-15

2. What is on Paul's religious resume?

3. How did Paul previously think about his credentials? What place did they have in his life?

4. How does Paul think about them now?

5. Paul gets a bit repetitive in verses 7&8. What does he keep repeating? What is he trying to communicate?

6. What two things does Paul compare in verse 8?

Which is better? Why?

Are they really that different? Why?

7. What two things does Paul compare in verse 9?

Which is better? Why?

Are they really that different? Why?

8. Reread verses 7-11. Note the tone. What is Paul's overwhelming passion? What is he willing to go through to attain his desire?

Think:

1. 'Good people go to hell; it is only bad people who go to heaven.' Discuss this comment in the light of Philippians 3:1-11

2. How should we think about our Christian achievements and credentials? Is there a place for self confidence in what we have done?

3. One of the 'dogs' might have said, 'getting circumcised, it's a matter of obedience as a Christian and will complete your salvation.' Have you heard similar arguments today which replace circumcision with something else?

4. In what ways do Christians get tempted 'to put confidence in the flesh'?

5. Are you holding on to some part(s) of your resume? Do you need to die to self and release these so that you might look more to Christ and rejoicing in Him?